

Mass of Dedication and Blessing of Our Church Home, Our House of Worship by the Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy, Bishop of San Diego Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 2:00pm



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 AdorationMonday-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







DAYS
UNTIL DEDICATION!

Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2015

What should we do?
—Luke 3:10



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

Pastor's Column

A Temple Built of Living Stones
The Mass of Dedication and Blessing: December 16, 2015

A few years before we began our building project, Betty Dorsa (*May She Rest in Peace!*) must have seen a sign of discouragement in my eyes, as I anticipated the many challenges of the upcoming construction. She took my hand and said to me: "Father, don't worry! We already have a Church. The buildings will come." Her comment meant much to me and I often reflect upon it.

Our Parish is now thirty years old and we, the people of St. Thomas More, **have been** Church for those thirty years! We are the "living stones" built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

We have for the last thirty years continued the mission and ministry of Jesus for this time and this place.

At this point in our history as Church, we now build and enter our Home, our House of Worship.

This moment and this place is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. This sacred space, blessed and dedicated by Bishop McElroy, is meant to help us to continue to be what we have been for the last thirty years—a Church, continuing what Jesus began some 2,000 years ago!

As we now live in our permanent Church Home, may it inspire us and strengthen us to continue to walk in the footsteps of Jesus!

And may this newly created sacred space also be a place where all people can pray, seek peace, and come to know their God!



Construction Update Visit www.stmoside.org to see more photos!



Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

	= 00	0 T 1 1 E # E I I
Mon, Dec. 14	7:00pm	St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas
Tue, Dec. 15	7:00pm	Nativity, Fairbanks Ranch
Tue, Dec. 15	6:30pm	St. James/St. Leo, Solana Beach
Wed, Dec. 16	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Mon, Dec. 21	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue, Dec. 22	10:30am	St. Peter, Fallbrook
Tue, Dec. 22	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook

The Parish Office will be closed December 14-18 because of the Dedication.

However, in case of emergency or a death, please call 760-758-4100 and select option 3.

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!

Considering Becoming Catholic?

Has Pope Francis ignited a spark in you to know more about the Catholic faith and become a member of the Church he shepherds?

If you are already Catholic, perhaps you have a new enthusiasm for your faith that you would like to share with a friend or family member who is searching.

Our lives sometimes go through seasons of change, of closeness to God and distance from God. Yet the Father's love is steadfast, full of mercy, and ever-present to those who seek with a sincere heart, no matter what sins or situations have caused separation.

If you have thought about becoming Catholic and beginning a new "season" in your life, contact Kathleen Bell, 760-809-6526, 80bell80@gmail.com.

STM Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
Call us, and we'll have it picked up operational or not!

You get the tax deduction!

We can accept vehicles without current registration and can file for replacement title if it has been lost.

As of December 8 we have netted \$60,352 from this program. Thank you donors!









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

Welcome New Parishioner Winifred Shur

Congratulations to

Jack & Marge Gillen

who celebrated their 61st anniversary of marriage December 11.

Kevin & Lyn Leahy

who celebrate their 30th anniversary of marriage 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 souls of:

Paul Kennedy, who died on October 31. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Robert Del Moral, who died on November 25. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 26, at 10:30am at Our Mother of Confidence Church in San Diego. Please keep his wife, Norene, his daughter, Jeanne Fletes, and his family in your prayers.

Ann Bukovchik, who died on December 2. Her Vigil Service will be held on Thursday, January 7, at 7:00pm, and her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 8, at 10:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her husband, Joe, and her family in your prayers.

Marceline Williams, who died on December 4. Her funeral arrangements are pending and will take place in Camarillo, California. Please keep her son, Eric Williams, and her family in your prayers.

Alexander Mathews, who died on December 8. His funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep his sister, Nina Woodard, and his family in you prayers.

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

Local Hospitals with Catholic Chaplains Available

If you or a loved one is in one of these hospitals and need the ministry of a Catholic priest, please contact the Chaplain's Office to make the arrangements.

Hospital	Chaplain's Office
Tri-City	760-940-7954
Palomar	442-281-1328
Scripps Encinitas	760-633-7784
Scripps Green	858-554-3698
Scripps Mercy	619-260-7020
UCSD Thornton	619-543-2103
Kaiser Zion	619-528-5188

Vocations

Trying to decide what to do with your life? Take to heart the words of St. Paul in today's second reading..."Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."...If you are considering the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life, feel free to contact your pastor, a Deacon or religious or Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442. We will all assist you in exploring the possibilities. They are all great and rewarding vocations.

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 13 (9) Third Sunday of Advent Zephaniah 3:14-18a Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm) Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18 Monday, December 14 (693)

John of the Cross, priest, doctor 1 Corinthians 2:1-10a Psalm 37:3-6,30-31 Luke 14:25-33

Tuesday, December 15 (188) Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13

Psalm 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23 Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16 (189) Isaiah 45:6b-8,18,21b-25 Psalm 85:9ab,10-14

Luke 7:18b-23 Thursday, December 17 (193)

Genesis 49:2,8-10 Psalm 72:1-4b,7-8,17 Matthew 1:1-17

Friday, December 18 (194) Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19

Matthew 1:18-25 **Saturday, December 19** (195) Judges 13:2-7,24-25a Psalm 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17 Luke 1:5-25

Sunday, December 20 (12) Fourth Sunday of Advent Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12, 5:00pm Ann Schima &

Sunday, December 13, 8:30am Sue Welch T

Sunday, December 13, 10:30am Maria Surmenidis 4

Monday, December 14, 8:15am Sen Lew

Tuesday, December 15, 8:15am Sterling Rinear &

Thursday, December 17, 8:15am Bud Hazlett ₽

Friday, December 18, 8:15am Devine Family

Saturday, December 19, 5:00pm Mari-Jo Porter & Joseph Immerso P

Sunday, December 20, 8:30am Albert Fleeman T

Sunday, December 20, 10:30am Dominic D'Agostini 🕆

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

Changa Aguilera
Ernie Aichele
Mary Alexander
Bill Ames
Carrie Autrey
Joshua Avery
Rosemary Ballard
Dee Barakman
Jose Luis Barbosa
Patricia Barbour
Francie Barron
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Lisa Berg
Roseanne Berg
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Pieter Boets & Family
Keri Brauer
Zane Breier Zane Breier Beth Brewer Janet Brown Todd Brown Todd Brown
Katie Browne
Jack & Mary Bruzas
Anita Buerger
The Buko Family
Shelby Campbell
Brianne Campos
The Cancelmo Family
Aria Cappeluti
Jorge Cartajena
Donald Cashmore
Anne Caywood Anne Caywood
The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Carl & Dorothy Coleman
James Coleman
Judy Colson Judy Colson Steven Cresencia Lené Crowe Karen Flaharty Daley Beverly de Gelder Velia Deal & Family The Del Moral & Fletes Families Nick Del Sesto Paul Del Vecchio Paul Del Sesto
Hugo Delgado, Jr.
Cassandra D'Ercole
Christine DeSantis
Cecilia DeSimone
David deVillenueve
Carole Dillon
Art & Dave Dossman
La Vonne Dumas
Marge Egan
Jerome Elbacha
Arthur Eral
Carolyn Erickson Ey
Victoria Lopez Fenton
The Fiore Family
Fr. James Flanagan
Mary Fleming
Ryan Flum
Ernie Follis Ryan Flum
Ernie Follis
Eugene Franciscus
Kathryn Franklin
The Greg French Family
Brian Frink
Jim Gallagher
The Joe Garcia Family
Kathy Gardner
Joan Gay
Jack & Marge Gillen
Merle Glime
Wendy Gonzales' Dad
Rick Gonzalez
Tillie Gonzalez
Lou Gordon
George Gritt George Gritt Fred Gritzen and Family Fred Gritzen and Fan Luke Guenst Susan Hallahan Pat & Tom Hannon The Harker Family Faith Harkless Dorothy Harrison Barbara Hatem Bill & Mary Haynes Lilian Hills Lisa (Lynn) Hodges Mike Hofer Samara Hook Susan Hori Iolanda Iacobelli Iolanda Iacobelli Sue Johnston Laura Kater Dottie Kearney The Kennedy Family Connor Kerzie Peggy Kiernan Debbie Kinney Mark Kneisel

Dewey Kolbo Tony Korwin Helen Kuhn Lillian Lachance The Lamelin Family Bart Landry Brandon LeBlanc Jake Lefferdink Jeremiah Lemus Ashley Load Cassandra & Lauren Loretto Cassanura & Lauren Locatol Jason Lowe Jack Lucarelli Joaquin Maldonado The Maldonado Family The Maldonado Trejo Family The Maldonado Family
The Maldonado Trejo Family
Paige Mansell
The Mathews & Woodard Families
Gloria Maupin
Colleen McCall
Virginia McConnell
The McGinley Family
Ann McMahan
Joseph J. McNulty
Bob McWilliams
Joyce Meehan
Kalei Mendiola
Rita Mikridge
Tom Miller
Phyllis Minava
June Mitchell
June Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Elizabeth Muehlbacher
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Angela Nacional
Mida Navarro
Richard Obsitnik
Kare O'Dell Richard Obsitnik Kare O'Dell Kare O'Dell
Maria Oey
Joyce Olson
Laura Paciorek Gloor
Ethan Palm
Cynthia Pearson
Salina Pearson
Valerie & Luis Perez
Elisa Petrie
Helen Pingtella
Delilah Plasterer
Perry Postulka
The Joe Prokop Family
Barbara Ramm
Angelina Ramos-Ramirez
Jenni Richard
Evelyn Richards Jenni Richard
Evelyn Richards
Jan Riley
Rita Ritchie
Joel Rivera
Lily Robinson
Gloria Rodriguez
The Rodriguez Family
Maria Rogers
The Russo Family
Rachel Sainc
Cindy Sanelli
Lori Sanna
Linda Schmidt Linda Schmidt
Grace Schweighofer
Joan Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Nick Soltau Nick Soltau
Bob Sorenson
Drew Spangler
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Don St. Pierre
Patricia St. Pierre
Sybil Staples
Mike Sterling
Mary Ann Stoddard
Lucas Story
Laura Bernard Stover, MD
Pete Sullivan
Julie Teare
Tommy & Ginger Thompson Julie Teare
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Olivia Trejo
The Trejo/Beltran Family
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Martin Vertson
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Viramontes
Vanessa Vitiello
Wilson Wanner
Kevin Watson-Graff
Jerry Wechsler
The Williams Family
Patricia Zavala Patricia Zavala Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

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

Dec 13 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass Dec 13 RE.A.CH Classes Dec 14-18 Parish Office Closed in preparation for Dedication

Dedication of Our Church **Dec 16** 2:00pm Christmas Cookie Exchange Dec 19 Dec 20 **REACH Classes** Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon Dec 21 Vigil of Christmas Dec 24 Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass at 9:30am

2016

Jan 3 12th Night Choral Festival Women's Guild Game Day Stewardship Awareness Jan 9 Jan 16-31 Presentation on Laudato Si Jan 17 Mar 13 New Member Reception Apr 29 STM Gala

Jun 20-24 Vacation Bible School

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

Deployed Military

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr. Lt. Devon Czarzasty Capt. Branden M. Felker, USAF Patrick G. Felker, USN Grant Fischer Cpt. Ryan J. Fullmer, USMC MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC Sgt. Alex Garcia Adolfo Granados, MD, U.S. Navy PFC Samuel Haro, US Army Cpl Caleb Lemons, USMC PFC Cody Madere Jordan Millikan 1st Lt. Jennifer Mozzetta Jeremiah Gabriel Nelson, USAF Thomas Kevin Nelson, US Navy Fireman Griffin Joseph Ochoa, US Navy Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army Nicole Rieger, US Navy Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

Pray for Women Religious

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

December 14 Sr. Rose Marie Brausam, OSF December 15 Sr. Gemma Gabriela Briseno, SJS December 16 Sr. Maureen Evelyn Brown, CSJ December 17 Sr. Angela Cardozo Rebollar, CSC December 18 Sr. Mary Lou Carlson, OSF December 19 Sr. Carmelita Carrillo, MC December 20 Sr. Maria Casas, SJS

Social Ministries & Outreach

Stop Assisted Suicide in California

Stop **Assisted Suicide** in California before it is too late. Earlier this year, through a special session, the California Legislature passed assisted suicide, allowing doctors to prescribe overdose medication to terminally ill patients.

Join a coalition of physicians, nurses, disability-rights organizations, and people of all faiths to stand for the lives of our elderly and dying and oppose assisted suicide.

Petitions will be available this weekend for signature on the plaza after all Masses. Signers must be registered to vote and can only sign once.

Why Oppose Assisted Suicide?

- It sends the wrong message: legalizing suicide for the terminally ill, while discouraging it for the rest of the population, teaches that the lives of the ill and disabled do not matter to our society.
- It will worsen patient care: patients in other states, like Barbara Wagner in Oregon, are being denied treatment prescribed by their doctors, and instead offered drugs for assisted suicide.
- It will increase non-terminal suicide rates: suicides skyrocket when assisted suicide is legalized. Oregon's suicide rate for non-terminal people increased 49% after assisted suicide became legal.

Christmas Angel Program—It's That Time of Year!

Thank you Angels! Gift bags for 200 children have been distributed through Catholic Charities this week. Camp Pendleton Adopt-a-Family packages are due this weekend, **no later than Monday, December 14**, so they can be delivered to the Naval Hospital on time.



Gifts of Scrip cards and other donations for Solutions for Change will also be delivered the week of December 14. Look for the Crown Ornaments benefitting Birth Choice coming to the tree. For more information, or to become a member of the Christmas Angel team, please contact Lisa Seufert at 760-716-0977 or leprechaun81@sbcglobal.net.

Brother Benno's...St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy as declared by Pope Francis, please continue to remember those who are less fortunate and in need. Thank you for your care and generosity these past number of years. May God continue to bless you for your kindness.

Rosary

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



Our Mission is to:
worship God,
teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
and serve God's people in word and deed.

Marriage & Family Life

Moms & Kids—Are you a mom with infant through school-age children wanting to meet other moms in our Parish? Want to find a great way to meet friends for both you and your children? Join our dynamic and energetic Moms and Kids ministry! We'll be having a park play date on Monday, December 21, 3:00



-5:00pm. Contact Jen Abelson at *jen.abelson@gmail.com* for the location. There are also many events throughout the month posted on our private Facebook page. Join us!

Natural Family Planning—Have you heard about NFP and aren't quite sure what it is? Are you interested in learning more about Natural Family Planning? Contact Cheryl and Dave Ross at *davidandcherylross@gmail.com* to learn more about the various NFP methods and determine which method is right for you and your family.

Relationship Skills Workshop—Deacon John and Debbie Fredette will be presenting Relationship Skills Workshops every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm at St. Thomas More through January 6. Come and explore how to improve your relationships. You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. The January 6 workshop topic is *Rebuilding Trust*. For more information call Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x104.

Restoring Marriage Today—Destination: San Diego. Marriage is fundamental to mankind. But it's in serious trouble. Find out how you can be part of the solution. The Catholic Answers Conference, Restoring Marriage Today, will be held in San Diego March 3-5, 2016. For more information and to register, go to: https://catholiccom.formstack.com/forms/ca_conference_2016.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—The Human Body: "Pope John Paul II's theology of the body speaks of the human body as having a spousal significance. This means that the human body by its very nature signifies that we humans are directed to relationship—that we are to seek union with others. It is only in relationship that we achieve a true wholeness as a communion of persons." To read the document go to http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/.

Marriage Moments—In the spirit of Advent waiting, practice waiting on your spouse today. While waiting for your spouse to arrive, calmly remember the good person you are awaiting (instead of stewing if he or she is late). Or "wait on" your spouse in the sense of doing a favor for him or her.

Parenting Pointers—Too busy? "A traditional Hindu attitude toward service is for parents to pull back from doing much outside service while their children are young. When the children are raised, they jump fully back into the service area. To everything there is a season." (Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference)

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

Christmas Cookie Exchange Saturday, December 19, 12:00-2:00pm

There is still time to sign up for the Christmas Cookie Exchange, hosted by Ava Ratajczak. Four dozen cookies and a \$20 donation are all you need to have a fabulous and festive time for this event. Sign up at the information table on the plaza after weekend Masses, the Parish Office, or contact Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or *chriss@stmoside.org*.

Parish Events

Knightly News

Visit the Knights of Columbus table on the Plaza to purchase Christmas cards and support their fundraising efforts!

Women's Guild News

Many of us have already heard the sad news of the death of our immediate past president, Ann Buko, on December 2. Ann headed the Women's Guild for two years and many more in supportive roles. Please keep Ann's family in your prayers in the coming days. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 8, at 10:00am. in the new church, preceded by a vigil in on Thursday, January 7, at 7:00pm. Please make every effort to attend as a member of Women's Guild and as a fitting tribute to this wonderful lady. She was my mentor and friend and will be deeply missed.

Our annual Christmas Raffle (one of Ann's pet projects!) is on track for a successful run. Next Sunday, December 20 after the 10:30am Mass, be out on the plaza to witness Fr. Mike's drawing of three lucky winners of \$200, \$300, and \$500. But unless you send in your ticket stubs and voluntary donation, you won't stand a chance! Deadline to get those in is December 15—drop them off in the Parish Office, or put them in the mail ASAP.

If you haven't done so yet, call Anna Robinson at 760-842-5205 to reserve your spot at our luncheon on Monday, December 14, at 11:00am. Ten dollars will buy you a lovely French-themed meal, as we celebrate the Advent/Christmas customs of France, embellished with reminiscences of two French-born members of the Women's Guild. This will be a lovely event, so don't miss it...call TODAY! (Game Day and Fashion Show tickets will also be available for purchase.)

May the Peace of the Lord be with you as we begin the third week of Advent, coming ever closer to the Christ Child's arrival in our hearts. —Kathy Gerhard, president

Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon

The Spirited Seniors have planned a delicious luncheon on the first day of winter, Monday, December 21. The doors will open at 11:30am, our caterer is Bobby's Hideaway Café, and the cost is \$18 for members and \$22 for guests. Please complete the reservation form that was in the bulletin or print the following on a piece of paper: Name(s) of people attending and your phone number. Put this and your check made payable to "STM Spirited Seniors" in an envelope marked "STM Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon." You may place your envelope in the offertory basket or Box 12 in the Parish Office. Space is limited; the deadline is noon on December 14. Questions, please call Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-509-4545.

Men's Fellowship Update

Are you hungry for a good message, good fellowship, and a good breakfast? Join us for our Saturday morning men's gathering and breakfast called *iHunger*. To stay informed of what's going on with *iHunger* via SMS text messages, **Text @iHunger to 23559.**

Also, if you find yourself thirsty for occasional fellowship over a beer at a local micro-brewery, or taking a day hike, or going to a ball game together with some other great men from the Parish, **Text @iThirst to 23559.**

Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Memorial Garden & Reflection Garden	l
Landscape Concrete Walkways	\$80,000
Decomposed Granite Pathways with Header	\$24,000
Melrose Landscape Slope	\$15,000
Building Accent Lighting & Pole Fixtures	\$14,000
Audio Visual Systems	
Sound and Video Mixing Board	\$12,000
Video Screen (Motorized 21-foot)	\$9,000
Sound System Base Speaker	\$8,000
Sound System Cabling	\$5,000

Memorial Item Donations Partial

Jesus, Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe Mosaic Panels for Memorial Garden (54) 28 available	\$5,000/each
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 722 available	\$300/each
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 97 available	\$300/each
Altar Server Albs (15) 15 available	\$125/each
	12/08/15

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.

Listed above 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*



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

Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

Would you like to expand your social life and meet a group of interesting and friendly widowed people? For more information, call Carol Kope at 760-726-0533. See the bulletin board on the lower level for our complete monthly calendar of social activities. RSVPs are required.

Liturgy & Music Worship God

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



I am baptizing you with water but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

OPENING THE HOLY DOOR

St. Thomas More Parish designated a Pilgrimage Church

n accord with *Misericordiae Vultus*, the document in which
Pope Francis announces the Year of
Mercy, Bishop McElroy has
designated the following as
Pilgrimage Churches in the Diocese
of San Diego. They will be opening
Holy Doors on the specified dates.

La Capilla de Cristo Rey, El Centro TBD

Mission San Diego de Alcalá Sunday, December 13

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico Sunday, December 13

> Saint Joseph Cathedral Sunday, December 13

Saint Jude Shrine of the West Sunday, December 13

Saint Thomas More Wednesday, December 16

Paragraph 14 of Misericordiae Vultus, reads:

Upcoming Music

¥

DECEMBER 20 4th Sunday of Advent

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5:00pm

Tower Bells

8:30am

Sanctuary Choir

10:30am

Praise Team

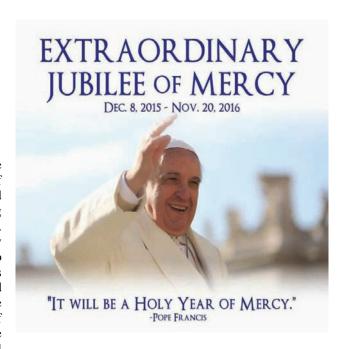
The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.

The following is an excerpt from the Introduction to the Rite for Opening of the Holy door:

...a holy door finds meaning only when the believer associates the door with Christ. Jesus is the Door! In the words of Pope Francis, "There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus the one and absolute way to salvation. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth 'This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter'" (Ps 118:20).

For additional resources, visit the Diocese of San Diego Office for Liturgy and Spirituality website below:

http://www.sdcatholic.org/Portals/0/olsfiles/Jubilee% 20Year/general_resources.pdf



Mass of Dedication and Blessing of Our Church Home, Our House of Worship

Opening of the Holy Door

Wednesday, December 16, 2:00pm

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Matt Franklin
Youth Advocate
760-758-4100 x161; mattf@stmoside.org

Debbie Fredette Director of Faith Formation 760-758-4100 x110; debbief@stmoside.org

Family Faith Formation

Our Next REACH Day is December 20

Expecting ??



Why not schedule your Baptismal appointment today before the arrival of your little one? Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 760-758-4100 x110 or *debbief@stmoside.org* for more information.

COMING SOON! Evening Bible Study

Beginning Thursday Evenings, January 7, 2016



Are You an Adult Who Wishes to Be Confirmed?

Classes for Adult Confirmation begin Thursday evening,

January 7 from 7:00-8:30pm. Contact Debbie in the Faith

Formation office for more information and to register.



Sunday Missals are Now Available! Purchase Yours Today!

MATTHEW KELLY

Coming to North County at St. Elizabeth Seton
Saturday, February 6, 2016
Tickets Are Going Fast! Get Yours Today by
Contacting the Faith Formation Office or ordering

online at www. Dynamiccatholic.com

Adult Faith Formation

New Sessions Beginning for



Next session is January 6, 2016 Matthew:

The King and His Kingdom

Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:00am

Sign Up Today to register and get your workbook for the next session.

Contact Patt Goeltz for more

Contact Patt Goeltz for more information at pattg@stmoside.org.

Join Us Sunday, January 17, 2016 From 12:30-2:00 For a talk on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si"

"Care of Our Common Home" By Fr. Emmett Farrell



RELATIONSHIP SKILLS WORKSHOP

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm Sessions Resume on January 6, 2016 No Registration Required! Just Show Up! This Workshop is for Everyone Single and Married

TABLE STATES IN MARKET

ig soon!



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Youth Ministry

High School



Monday from 7-8:30pm



Refuel will return Wednesday

January 6

Middle School



Sunday from 4:30-6pm

Stewardship & Development Serve God's People



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



2015 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 Wednesday, December 23, and will reopen on Monday, January 4.
- Donations received the weekend of December 27-28, 2015, and the Thursday, December 31, 2015, Vigil Mass will be credited in the 2015 tax year.
- Envelopes POSTMARKED by Thursday, December 31, 2015 will, be counted toward the 2015 tax year.
- Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) ~ Parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to complete payments by December 15. (Tithing families, know that your tithe covers your ACA contribution.)
- Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.

For more information please contact:

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

Collection for Week of December 5/6, 2015		
Number of Registered Households	1,179	
Offertory	\$22,520.73	
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$904.50	
Total	\$23,425.23	

Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income September 15, 2014 to November 30, 2015

Mortgage Offering Collected	\$621,353.89
Less Administrative Costs	\$31,245.00
Payment toward Parish Reserves (10%)	\$60,612.19
Payment toward Mortgage	\$545,509.70
Mortgage Payment Due	\$642,950.94
Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$97,441.24)
Memorial Items Collected	\$1,284,209.90
Please continue to support th	ie
Mortgage/Building Completion I	Fund!

St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: A Fruitful Time for the Christian Steward

Probably nothing challenges a Christian steward's use of time as much as the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Each year, we marvel at the irony of it: a time to honor and ponder God's great mystery, the Incarnation, somehow falls prey to a time of stressful shopping, endless "to do" lists, strained checkbooks, and guilt over what's not getting done. Sometimes those non-stop Christmas tunes begin to grate on our senses.

How does the Christian steward answer this challenge to devote time to reflection and prayer while incorporating the best and most fruitful of our cultural traditions into this festive season?

One suggestion would be to set aside a special time of reflection right at the beginning of Advent for determining what our priorities for the season will be.

Ask for help in setting aside time for prayer each day. Don't be afraid to cross things off your "must do" list if they add stress to what should be a peaceful time.

Only you and God can determine the best use of your time.

For instance, some people find annual Christmas cookie baking a reflective, creative time and a wonderful way to share. For others, it's a self-imposed burden and a sure-fire way to a messy kitchen and a calorie overload.



Likewise, that extra party may be just what someone needs to unwind and commune with friends, while for another it may be the gateway to exhaustion or a temptation to overindulge in food or drink.

Ask God which traditions are life-giving for you, and be bold enough to leave the others behind.

"I just don't have time," is the frequent lament of the holiday season. But the Christian steward is aware that we all have the same amount of time, and to each is given an opportunity of returning the first fruits of that time back to God. The season of Advent offers just such a grace-filled opportunity.

—ICSC December 2016 e-Bulletin (with permission)

God doesn't require you to succeed, but only requires that you try. —Blessed Mother Teresa

News & Information from the Larger Church

Job Opportunity—Birth Choice of San Marcos is currently seeking a Nurse Manager to assist Birth Choice in converting to Medical status. This individual must have a passion for the prolife cause, exhibit strong interpersonal and administrative skills, supervising, organizing, planning, assessing and monitoring the medical services provided by Birth Choice. This individual must also be willing to obtain education, training, and documentation of competency to perform limited obstetric ultrasound. Anyone interested please call Heidi Hill at 760-621-3414 X11 to set up an appointment or for further information.



Around the Diocese—Visit www.diocese-sdiego.org to learn more about activities available through the Diocese and other Parishes.

Bereavement Support Group—Meets every Tuesday, 9:30-11:00am at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Room 5 of the Parish Center, 6628 Santa Isabel St., Carlsbad. All those negotiating the loss of a loved one are invited to participate. For more information, contact Liz Littel at 760-917-4404.

Shopportunity—Catholic Charities Thrift—Item donations appreciated. For more information, contact Yolanda Ungo, Program Manager, 760-631-2819.

Catholic Charities Food Resource Center Has Volunteer Opportunities for YOU!—Drivers, Daily Food Packers, Intake Workers, and Calfresh (food stamp) Advocate. For information call Marco Lemus at 760-631-4792.

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.

STM \$crip News

Christmas will be here in just over **three weeks**. Get your special orders in as soon as possible. Special orders must be placed by December 14 to ensure delivery before Christmas. The scrip team will be on the plaza after all Masses or check with Henny in the Parish Office during the week.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? You can fundraise for STM while you shop using Amazon Smile and Amazon Scrip—check www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm for details!

Scrip is now available after all three Masses. We appreciate your continued support for the Scrip program. For more information, visit www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm or contact the Scrip team at 760-758-4100 x150 or scrip@stmoside.org

P.S. Have you re-registered your Ralphs/Food 4 Less cards so that St. Thomas More receives a percentage of your purchases? Stop by the Scrip table after Mass or visit www.stmoside.org/script.htm for details.

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

Jail/Detention Ministry

Jesus said, "I was in prison and you visited me. What you did for the least of these you did for me." To volunteer and bring the gifts of presence, compassion, hope, and love to those in prison, call Rita at 760-758-4100 x100. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore, where you will find information on not only visiting those in prison, but ways to provide support for victims or their families and ways to get involved with victim/ offender mediation and reconciliation.

STM Mental Health Ministry Network

Are you interested in participating in the Ministry team of the STM Mental Health Ministry Network to help serve as "prayerful companions" for fellow Parishioners experiencing mental health issues, walking with them through the treatment process, and helping to provide Parish-wide education on the subject of mental illness? For more information, contact Tim Keane at 760-758-2717; for referrals, contact Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x104.

Young Adult Opportunities around the Diocese

For more information, visit www.yamsd.org. To receive text updates, text **YAM** to **84576.**

Visit www.sandiegocac.org for activities around the Diocese for adults of **all** ages.

Catholic Radio—AM 1000/Sirius 130—San Diego

Visit ihradio.com/sandiego

Catholics Come Home

Do you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who has left the Catholic Church? If so, encourage them to visit www.CatholicsComeHome.org.

News from St. Francis Church

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

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Parish Contacts

Updated 10/06/2015

Council Chairpersons: Pastoral-Doug D'Agrosa 760- 941-6800 • Finance-Paul Ibbetson 760- 734-1051 • Development-Ron Briseno 760- 726-4496

Council Chairpersons. Pastoral-Doug D Agrosa 700- 941-0800 • Pinan	_
Pastoral Council Committees	Walking MinistryDiane Pal 760-815-2519
Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization	Women's GuildKathy Gerhard 760-732-5951
Rory Griffin 760-414-3939	Social Ministries Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699
Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (RE.A.CH)	Blood Drive Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699
Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	Brother Benno's CollectionDcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
Liturgy of the Word for Children Heidi Madden 760-529-2400	Brother Benno's Kitchen ServerGeorge Jones 760-940-9288
Sacramental PreparationDebbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	Christmas Angel Ministry Kevin & Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965
RCIAKathleen Bell 760-809-6526	CPR/AED Classes
Moms & KidsJen Abelson 410-570-6962	Culture of Life
Lia Haubert 949-322-6458	Disability Facilitation
Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530	Jail Ministry
Youth Ministry Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161	Mental Health Ministry
High School	Prayer Request Line
Young Adults Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161	Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
Religious Education for AdultsDebbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	Project Linus
Bible StudyPatt Goeltz 760-727-8442	Social Justice Committee
Centering Prayer Mary Williams 760-758-4100 x100	Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
Men's Fellowship	Joyce Meehan 760-304-0373
Women's Ministry	JustFaith Activities Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
Vocations	San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)
Liturgy	
Art & Environment	Solutions for Change Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872
Bereavement MinistrySr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131	Family Shoe Ministry Rick & Heidi Madden 760-470-4998
Eucharistic Adoration	St. Bonaventure Mission
Liturgical Ministries Pougles Lynn 760 759 4100 v 140	Office Support Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
Liturgical MinistriesDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140 Music MinistryDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140	General Support
Sacristans—Altar Guild	Chair Set-UpLorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
Sacristans—Altar Gund	Kitchen ManagerRebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100
Marriage & Family LifeJen Frost 858-692-7438	Development Council Committees
Bringing the Celebration HomeJen Frost 858-692-7438	Annual Catholic AppealFlora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100
Diocesan Liaison	New Construction Brian Leahey 760-224-1674
Family Services	Parish MembershipValerie Thompson 760-630-1703
Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100	Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
Widows & Widowers of North CountyCarol Kope 760-726-0533	Publicity/Public RelationsJane Gladden 760-659-6168
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Dcn. John Fredette	
Dcn. Tom Goeltz	
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate	
Dcn. John Fredette, Business Manager	
Debbie Fredette, Director of Faith Formation	
Matt Franklin, Youth Advocate	760-758-4100 x161 mattf@stmoside.org
Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant	
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music	
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director	
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist	
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development	
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary	
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician	
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction	
Dian Dealey, Director of Constitution	ortune simostic.org

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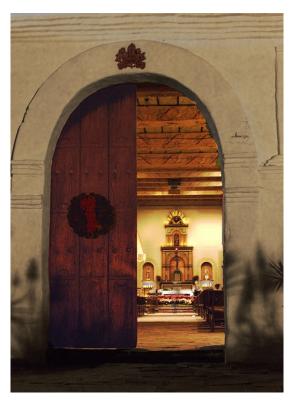
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"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."

-POPE FRANCIS

Jubilee Year of Mercy Designation of Holy Doors



In accord with *Misericordiae Vultus*, the document in which Pope Francis announces the Year of Mercy, Bishop McElroy has designated the following as Pilgrimage Churches in the Diocese of San Diego.

They will be opening Holy Doors on the specified dates.

La Capilla de Cristo Rey, El Centro | TBD
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico | Sunday, December 13
Mission San Diego de Alcala | Sunday, December 13
Saint Joseph Cathedral | Sunday, December 13
Saint Jude Shrine of the West | Sunday December 13
Saint Thomas More | Wednesday, December 16

Paragraph 14 of Misericordiae Vultus reads:

The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.

The following is an excerpt from the Introduction to the Rite for Opening of the Holy Door:

...a holy door finds meaning only when the believer associates the door with Christ. Jesus is the Door! In the words of Pope Francis, "There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus the one and absolute way to salvation. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth. 'This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter.'" (Psalm 118:20)



For additional resources, visit the Office for Liturgy and Spirituality website below:

http://www.sdcatholic.org/Portals/0/olsfiles/Jubilee%20Year/general_resources.pdf

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Action

Catholic Social Teaching

The principles of Catholic social teaching should be the moral framework from which we address all issues in the political arena. Among those principles are:

- The life and dignity of the human person,
- Human rights and responsibilities,
- The call to family and community,
- The dignity of work and rights of workers,
- The preferential option for those who are poor and vulnerable
- Solidarity, and
- Care for God's creation.

Guidelines for Advocacy and Political Action

While it is increasingly accepted that major public issues have moral dimensions and that religious values have public consequences, there is often confusion and controversy over the participation of religious individuals and groups in public life.

Following are some practical guidelines for pastors and parishes on advocacy and political action which will clarify what is allowed on an individual basis and an institutional basis. Since these are only guidelines, each (arch) diocese, (arch) diocesan agency and parish, in consultation with its bishop, remains free to make its own determination as to what activities are proper for its personnel and committees.

1 Individual citizens are free to fully engage in partisan politics. The Church encourages all citizens to vote. In light of that, the Church urges voters to examine the positions of candidates for public office on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity and performance.

Religious leaders, however, should avoid taking public positions on candidates or publically participating in political party matters even when acting in their individual capacity. Although not prohibited, it may be difficult to separate their personal activity from their public role as a Church leader.

Unlike individuals, Churches and other institutions, which qualify for tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code, may in no way engage in partisan politics such as supporting or opposing individual candidates for office.

That means that no diocesan or parish entity or organization or other 501 (c) (3)

exempt Church organization should engage in voter education which directly or indirectly suggests that a particular candidate or party should be supported or opposed. That also means that no one candidate should be invited to a parish function during an election campaign, unless all candidates for that office are invited.

Advocacy on "issues" is not a partisan activity. Therefore, Church organizations may take positions on public policies such as proposed legislation and ballot initiatives which can be referendums, constitutional amendments or changes to statutes.

Parishes and other Church organizations should, in some cases, engage in issue-oriented activities and political action.

The local diocesan attorney should be consulted for local guidelines but limitations on the extent of such political action and advocacy are not generally a problem for parishes or active institutions, since that activity would be an insubstantial part of their total work.

The following are examples of such acceptable activity:

• Conducting meetings and gatherings designed to share the Catholic Church's teaching regarding the moral and ethical dimensions of public-policy issues and/or legislation.

In a 2013 reflection entitled Pray for Politicians that They Govern Us Well, Pope Francis, wrote:

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader[s] can govern."

Along those same lines, in 2007 the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship saying:

"Some question whether it is appropriate for the Church to play a role in political life. However, the obligation to teach about moral values that should shape our lives, including our public lives, is central to the mission given to the Church by Jesus Christ...The Catholic community brings important assets to the political dialogue about our nation's future."



Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Action

- Preaching to parishioners about the sanctity and dignity of human life and the concept of the common good and exhorting them to "faithful citizenship."
- Organizing participation in Catholic Advocacy Day and/or diocesan-sponsored issue-oriented events.
- Distributing fliers containing both a statement about issues before the Congress, the California Legislature or local government and the names and addresses of elected representatives.
- Encouraging individuals to contact their state or federal legislators in order to educate them and to develop support/opposition for legislation.

The following types of activities may be conducted with appropriate advice from the California Catholic Conference or from the (arch) diocese.

- Urging parishioners to register, to vote and to participate actively in Church-sponsored "get-out-the-vote" drives and other nonpartisan voter-education initiatives.
- Sponsoring multi-issue candidate forums to which all candidates for a particular office are invited.
- Conducting single-issue forums which present both sides of the issue objectively.

No (arch) diocesan or parish entity or organization may endorse, oppose or evaluate any political party or candidate for public office. No such organization can contribute in any way to a political candidate, party, campaign or political action committee. Church property or personnel should not be used in campaign ads.

The following are examples of activities which are not allowed:

- Urging readers or listeners to vote for or against a particular candidate or party;
- Labeling a candidate or party as "pro-school aid" or "anti-life"; such a practice removes objectivity by not allowing readers to evaluate a candidate's position themselves;
- Using plus (+) or minus (-) signs to evaluate a candidate or party;
- Rating candidates or parties on a scale of "1 to 10" for example, or otherwise saying "X is good," "Y is better";
- The use of marked sample ballots.

Although Churches have no jurisdiction over public sidewalks and other public property in their vicinities, Church parking is private property and the general public has no right to distribute partisan materials thereon. This may be difficult to control, but parish leaders should nevertheless deny permission for any such activity.

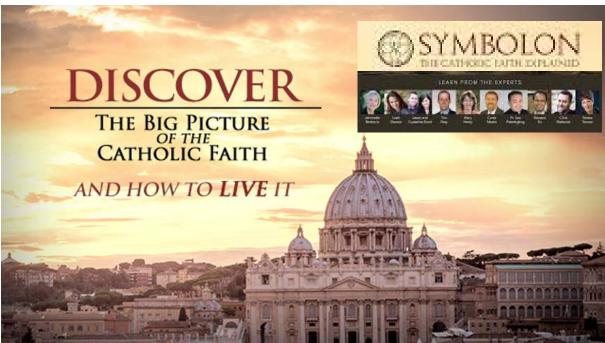
The California Catholic Conference staff reviews all of the statewide ballot initiatives and referenda. The bishops, after appropriate consultation, may choose—either individually or as a conference—to support, oppose or take no position on each measure.

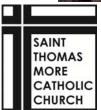
When neither the California Catholic Conference nor the (arch) diocese has taken a public position on a specific measure, a parish or Catholic organization should not do so without previous consultation with the bishop.

Granting the use of Church facilities to supporting or opposing groups should rarely be allowed. Only with the specific permission of the diocesan bishop and the local pastor should Church facilities be used for signature gathering to place an initiative on the ballot.

All public policy materials distributed in parishes must be prepared by the (arch) diocese, the California Catholic Conference (CCC) or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).







Thursday Evening Sessions Begin On Thursday, January 7 and continue on:

January 14, 21, & 28, February 4, 11, 18, & 25, March 3 & 10

7:00-8:30pm on the lower level of the Parish Center

Please return the registration form and fee to the Faith Formation Office by January 1 Materials Fee for 10 sessions is \$20

PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Name		A	Amount Paid \$		
Name Preferred (on Name Tag				
Address					
City		Zip Code _			
Contact Phone			For Office Use On	ly	
Email Address			Cash Y/N	\$	
I would love to he	elp with:		Check Y/N	\$ check #	
Y Hospitality	Y Small Group Leader	Y Clean Up	Credit Card Y/N	\$	
Won't You Please Consider a Scholarship Donation to Help		Card #			
Someone Attend?	•				
\$			Signature Authori	zation	