

**SAINT
THOMAS
MORE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

**“Situations can change; people can change.
Be the first to seek to bring good.
Do not grow accustomed to evil,
but defeat it with good.”**

**— Pope Francis,
The Church of Mercy**



**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



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015**

**And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord
should come to me?**

—Luke 1:43



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

Pastor's Column

Yes, We Have Arrived...No, We Have Not Arrived!

Now that we are in our new permanent home, our House of Worship, I, along with many others, find myself saying “We have arrived...”

There is a great feeling of accomplishment that, after 30 years, we have arrived. We are in our permanent home.

But we need to remember that this grand accomplishment is not an end in itself, but it is a means to an end.

This magnificent building is meant to help us better worship our God and to strengthen us in our efforts as we reach out in loving service, in the name of Jesus, to the world around us.

If we fail to do this, we have built to no avail! The building, as beautiful as it is, becomes meaningless.

So, “Yes, we have arrived...” not in a sense of completion, but as one more step along our faith journey as St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

So, “No, we have not arrived...” because we still have a long way to go. We continue praising our God and reaching out in loving service, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, with the world around us.

We will have arrived, one day, as we make our entrance into our Father's House, and He says to us: “Welcome, good and faithful servant!”

In the meantime, we continue our journey, celebrating the milestones along the way.

Our Church, our Home, our House of Worship is one of those milestones.

F. Mike

Vigil of Christmas | Thursday, December 24
Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm
Christmas Day | Friday, December 25
Mass at 9:30am

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

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 23-January 4
for the holidays.**

**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 Parishioners

Gary & Lesley Cababa & Family

Congratulations to

Tim & Beverly Kowallek

who celebrated their 47th anniversary of marriage December 14.

Mike & Henny Jocelyn

who celebrate their 41st anniversary of marriage December 21.

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:



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, Parishioner 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.

*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? 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.

Ways to Help Support Your Parish

We offer a variety of options for easier giving: extra mail-back envelopes included in your packet or credit card and automatic checking/savings account deductions by signing up in the office or online. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org. To sign up online, visit www.stmoside.org, then click on Donations, then Online Giving.

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 20 (12)
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Hebrew 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Monday, December 21 (694)
Peter Canisius, priest, doctor
2 Timothy 4:1-5
Psalm 40:2 and 4,7-11
Matthew 5:13-19

Tuesday, December 22 (198)
1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-8d (Psalm)
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23 (695)
John of Kanty, priest
James 2:14-17
Psalm 112:1bc-9
Luke 6:27-38

Thursday, December 24 (14)
Nativity of the Lord—Midnight
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3,11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Friday, December 25 (16)
Nativity of the Lord—Day
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1-6
Hebrew 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Saturday, December 26 (696)
Stephen, first martyr
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Psalm 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17
Matthew 10:17-22

Sunday, December 27 (17)
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

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
Pietër Boets & Family
Keri Brauer
Joshua Breier
Zane Breier
Beth Brewer
Janet Brown
Todd Brown
Katie Browne
Jack & Mary Bruzas
Anita Buerger
The Buko Family
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
The Cancelmo Family
Aria Cappeluti
Jorge Cartajena
Donald Cashmore
Anne Caywood
The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Carl & Dorothy Coleman
James Coleman
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
Hugo Delgado, Jr.
Cassandra D'Ercole
Christine DeSantis
Cecilia DeSimone
David deVilleneuve
Carole Dillon
JoEllen Doering
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
Eugene Francisus
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
Fred Gritzen and Family
Luke Guenst
Susan Hallahan
Pat & Tom Hannon
The Harker Family
Dorothy Harrison
Barbara Hatem
Bill & Mary Haynes
Lilian Hills
Lisa (Lynn) Hodges
Mike Hofer
Samara Hook
Susan Horn
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
Jason Lowe
Jack Lucarelli
Joquin Maldonado
The Maldonado Family
The Maldonado Trejo Family
Paige Mansell
The Matthews & 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 Minaya
June Mitchell
June Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Elizabeth Muehlbacher
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Angela Nacional
Melanie Nacional
Nida Navarro
Richard Obsitnik
Kare O'Dell
Joyce Olson
Laura Paciorek Gloor
Ethan Palm
Cynthia Pearson
Salina Pearson
Elisa Petrie
Helen Pingtella
Delilah Plasterer
Perry Postulka
The Joe Prokop Family
Barbara Ramm
Angelina Ramos-Ramirez
Jenni Richard
Evelyn Richards
Jan Riley
Rita Ritchie
Lily Robinson
Glória Rodriguez
The Rodriguez Family
Maria Rogers
The Russo Family
Rachel Sainc
Cindy Sanelli
Lori Sanna
Linda Schmidt
Joan Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
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
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Olivia Trejo
The Trejo/Beltran Family
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Martin Vertson
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Viramontes
Vanessa Vitiello
Wilson Wanner
Kevin Watson-Graff
Jery Wechsler
The Williams Family
Patricia Zavala
Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

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

- Dec 20 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
 - Dec 20 RE.A.CH Classes
 - Dec 21 Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon
 - Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm
 - Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass at 9:30am
 - Dec 31 Vigil of Mary the Mother of God—Mass at 5:00pm
- 2016**
- Jan 1 Mary the Mother of God Mass at 9:30am
 - Jan 3 12th Night Choral Festival
 - Jan 9 Women's Guild Game Day
 - Jan 16-31 Stewardship Awareness
 - Jan 17 Presentation on *Laudato Si*
 - 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 21 Sr. Margaret Castro, SFCC
December 22 Sr. Vera Chan, CSN
December 23 Sr. Abigail Chavez, SJS
December 24 Sr. Katia Chavez, SJS
December 25 Sr. Justine C. Church, MMS
December 26 Sr. Marie Pascale Clisson, UCSC
December 27 Sr. Maura Coakley, OCD

Mass Intentions
Saturday, December 19, 5:00pm Mari-Jo Porter & Joseph Immerso ☩
Sunday, December 20, 8:30am Albert Fleeman ☩
Sunday, December 20, 10:30am Dominic D'Agostini ☩
Monday, December 21, 8:15am William Hokama ☩
Tuesday, December 22, 8:15am Paul & Dort Schmidt ☩
Wednesday, December 23, 8:15am Eunice Masseth ☩
Thursday, December 24, 4:00pm Joseph (JoJo) Carter ☩
Thursday, December 24, 6:00pm Steven Wilmott ☩
Thursday, December 24, 10:00pm Jim Tutino ☩
Friday, December 25, 9:30am Anna & Luigi Luce ☩
Saturday, December 26, 5:00pm Edward H. Frapwell & Georges André Formaris ☩
Sunday, December 27, 8:30am Adelaida Dionisio ☩
Sunday, December 27, 10:30am Patsy Vozza ☩

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?

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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!

The bells are ringing and many Angels have earned their wings! Thank you to all who have supported the Christmas Angel Ministry this year. We collected for 66 Camp Pendleton families, 130 families in the Solutions for Change program and 200 children through Catholic Charities. Crowns benefitting Birth Choice are now on the tree and are due back on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan 2-3. If you have any questions, 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.

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.

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!



Civil to Church Marriage—Are you civilly married, but haven't yet been married in the church? Contact Fr. Mike at michaelr@stmoside.org to begin your preparation!

Relationship Skills Workshop—Deacon John and Debbie Fredette will be presenting Relationship Skills Workshops selected Wednesday evenings 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—God's Love, Our Love: "God established marriage so that man and woman could participate in his love and thus selflessly give themselves to each other in love. A man and a woman who by their act of consent are no longer two but one flesh (see Mt 19:6ff) render mutual help and service to each other through an intimate union of their persons and of their actions." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—The winter solstice brings the longest night of the year. Warm it with candlelight. For some couples, however, dark nights bring depression. If you are among those who are currently struggling in your marriage, turn to the power of prayer as one resource.

Parenting Pointers—These last few days before Christmas can be hectic—concerts, cooking, creating gifts... As the nights grow longer, a candle can be your friend. Light the fourth Advent candle tonight and pause, gaze, take a deep breath. Let the pause refresh and calm you.

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.

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**.

Parish Events

Knightly News

Visit the Knights of Columbus table on the Plaza and support their fundraising efforts!

Women's Guild News

As we enter a new era here at St. Thomas More, with our long-awaited new church open to receive us, purely anointed and blessed, the excitement and anticipation of the coming Christ Child is evident among all of us. So much work has been put into the preparation of the dedication this past month, on the part of the staff and many parishioners, for this we Thank You! Women's Guild can be proud to see our lovely baptismal font, one of the first items needed in the church that we were able to provide with our fundraising efforts. Over the years, choir chairs and the carillon have been donated by us among other items.

At our December meeting we celebrated the country of France, honoring its patron saint and enjoying a lovely French meal as well as a presentation about French Advent/Christmas customs by two French-born members. More details of our gathering will be forthcoming. Our annual Christmas Raffle was a huge success, and winners will be announced next week. Don't forget to calendar Game Day Saturday, January 9—tickets still available at \$20 for a day filled with fun, prizes and food.

I wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas!

—Kathy Gerhard, president

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.

Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Memorial Garden & Reflection Garden	
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

<i>Jesus, Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe Mosaic Panels for Memorial Garden</i> (54) 23 available	\$5,000/each
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 721 available	\$300/each
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 97 available	\$300/each
Altar Server Albs (15) 15 available	\$125/each

12/14/15

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



Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

— Luke 1:45

DECK THE HALLS...

Can You Help Decorate the Church?
 For Christmas? In the Future?

Contact Kathy Arciero
 760-231-1022 or karciero@hotmail.com

Upcoming Music

DECEMBER 24
Nativity
of the Lord

✠

4:00pm

Praise Team
 Christmas
 Youth Choir

6:00pm

Cappella Choir

10:00pm

Sanctuary Choir

DECEMBER 25
The Nativity
of the Lord

✠

9:30am

Sanctuary Choir
 Tower Bells



DECEMBER 27
The Holy
Family of
Jesus, Mary,
and Joseph

✠

5:00pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am

Praise Team

10:30am

Cappella Choir

O COME, O COME...

God's message for the final days of Advent

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

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



O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
 you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:

Come,
show your people the way to salvation.

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

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



O Flower of Jesse's Stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down before you:

Come,
let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

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

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



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

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

O King of All the Nations, the only
 joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of humankind:



Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel,
 king and lawgiver,
 desire of the nations, Savior of all people:

Come and set us free.



ERO CRAS

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

Today Is A REACH Sunday!

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.

Join Us Sunday, January 17
12:30-2:00pm
for a talk on Pope Francis' encyclical
Laudato Si
Care of Our Common Home
Facilitated by
Fr. Emmett Farrell



Sunday Missals Are Now Available!
Purchase Yours Today!

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS WORKSHOP

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm
Sessions Resume on January 6

No Registration Required! Just Show Up!
This Workshop is for Everyone Single and Married

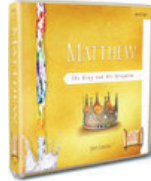
MATTHEW KELLY

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

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
information at pattg@stmoside.org.

COMING SOON! Evening Bible Study

Thursday Evenings, Beginning January 7



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.

COMING SOON!



BELOVED

Join us for a 12-part series on Wednesday evenings, beginning
January 20 at 7:00pm. Learn first hand how to experience the
mystery, happiness, and joy of marriage. **Beloved** will help you
live out the Sacrament of Marriage more profoundly, so that your
love story is drawn ever more into the greatest love story of all...
God's own love for us. Contact the Faith Formation Office for
additional information.

Youth Ministry

High School
STM OCEANSIDE LIFE TEEN
IGNITE
Monday from 7-8:30pm
REFUEL

Refuel will return Wednesday January 6

XLT OCEANSIDE
WORSHIP | MESSAGE | ADORATION
12.21.15
Dinner @ 6:30
Guest Speaker:
Luke Maxwell
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1450 S. Melrose Dr. Oceanside, CA

Middle School
STM XEDGE
jtc. highministry
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 12/13, 2015

Number of Registered Households	1,180
Offertory	\$11,520.05
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$1,283.00
Total	\$12,803.05

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 \$1,284,209.90

Please continue to support the
Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!

St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

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

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

What do you have that you did not receive?

So wrote St. Paul in his first letter to Christians in Corinth. He was writing about their many spiritual blessings, all received from the loving hands of a gracious God.

So much they had received and we share with those early Christians in an abundance of blessings. The spiritual blessings without which life would be unbearable.

Other blessings of homes and families, food on the table, and a roof over our heads. So much which God has given us.

Now as Christmas approaches we think of that lovely and precious gift of Jesus Christ. The beautiful story of Blessed Mary, of the Angels, the Shepherds, the stable, and the manger. The amazing story of the baby of Bethlehem, all for us and for our salvation.

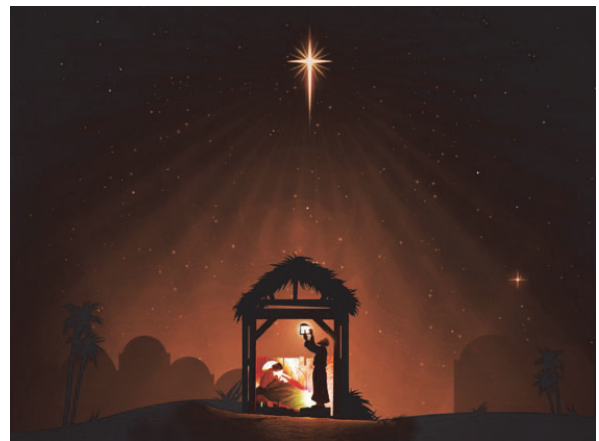
The Christmas story brings us face to face with a stark truth about ourselves. We need saving and we cannot save ourselves. God's way of saving us is through a "babe, a tiny helpless boy." Here in the manger is the gift that has to be received. "As many as received him, to them gave the power to become sons of God." To receive God's gift of the Holy Child is to become children of God ourselves.

And as we receive, so we are moved to give. To give of ourselves to each other. To give to those in need (like the Parishioner who has already promised a turkey to give to someone in need). To give ourselves in worship.

So let the theme of this Christmas be giving and receiving. Receiving first, the amazing grace of God in the gift of Jesus Christ. Then to give. A gift for someone in need. A thank-offering of money for the Lord's work here at the church. Ourselves, our souls and bodies.

As we give, it will be to find that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." So we shall exclaim with joy: **"What do we have that we did not receive?"**

—Stewardship December 2016 newsletter (with permission)



For the gift of God's Son, we give thanks!

News & Information from the Larger Church

Birth Choice Annual Morning of Prayer—Saturday, January 9, at Meadowlark Church, 1918 Redwing St., San Marcos, from 9:00am-12:00noon. Come join us for a continental breakfast, to learn more about Birth Choice and our pro-life ministry, our efforts to go mobile medical, and to pray for our future endeavors and the needs of the pro-life movement. To register, visit www.birthchoicedonors.net, then *Events*, then *Day of Prayer*.

Fr. Joe's Villages Ladies Guild Annual Charity Luncheon—Tuesday, February 16, 10:45am, "Ooh-La-La Paris" at the Sheraton Mission Valley. \$55 per person; free parking. All proceeds benefit the children at Fr. Joe's Villages. For information/donations, contact Kristi at 858-453-9640 or kristikeith@mac.com or Jane at 858-453-7016 or janehargrove67@gmail.com.

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 pro-life 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.

Shoppportunity—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

STM Scrip News

Christmas will be here in just over **three weeks**. Remember you can shop online and purchase instant Scrip: ScripNow. Check www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm to sign up.

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.

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.

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.

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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www.stmoside.org • Parishoffice@stmoside.org

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

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

Pastoral Council Committees

Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization

-**Rory Griffin 760-414-3939**
- Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (R.E.A.CH)
 -Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Heidi Madden 760-529-2400
- Sacramental Preparation.....Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-809-6526
- Moms & Kids..... Jen Abelson 410-570-6962
- Lia Haubert 949-322-6458
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs..... Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- Youth Ministry..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
- High School..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
- Young Adults..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
- Religious Education for Adults...Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Bible Study..... Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Centering Prayer..... Mary Williams 760-758-4100 x100
- Men’s Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
- Women’s Ministry.....Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Vocations..... Dcn. Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

- Art & Environment..... Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
- Bereavement Ministry..... 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
- Music Ministry..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
- Sacristans—Altar Guild..... Diana Diaz 760-758-7870
- Sacristans—Altar Linens..... Anna Meyers 760-727-4998

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438

- Bringing the Celebration Home..... Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- Diocesan Liaison..... Andrea Spencer 760-560-6540
- Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533

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

- Annual Gala..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Historian/Archives..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus..... John Murphy 760-497-6117
- Social Activities..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Spirited Seniors..... Jim & Marilyn Day 760-509-4545
- Treasures Rummage Sale..... John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117

- Walking Ministry..... Diane Pal 760-815-2519
- Women’s Guild..... Kathy Gerhard 760-732-5951
- Social Ministries Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699**
- Blood Drive..... Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699
- Brother Benno’s Collection..... Dcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Brother Benno’s Kitchen Server..... George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry..... Kevin & Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Culture of Life..... Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- Disability Facilitation..... Ann Eriksson 760-305-9985
- Jail Ministry..... Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100
- Mental Health Ministry..... Chair: Tim Keane 760-758-2717
- Referrals: Deacon John Fredette 760-758-4100 x104
- 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
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
- Joyce Meehan 760-304-0373
- JustFaith Activities..... 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..... Dcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442

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 Manager..... Rebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

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

Pastoral Staff

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

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scrip@stmoside.org

Hospitality



Are you willing to share your smile at Mass? Now that we're officially in our new church, we need more of our friendly stewards to welcome everyone to STM before and after the liturgy. Date selections are available.

Contact Douglas Lynn:
(760) 758-4100 x140
douglasl@stmoside.org



1450 South Melrose Drive • Oceanside, CA 92056
760-758-4100 • 760-758-4165 fax
www.stmoside.org • parishoffice@stmoside.org
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XLT OCEANSIDE

WORSHIP | MESSAGE | ADORATION

12.21.15

Dinner @ 6:30

Guest Speaker:
Luke Maxwell



St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1450 S. Melrose Dr. Oceanside CA

Christmas Schedule

Join Us in the New Church!



Vigil of Christmas
Thursday, December 24

- 4:00pm Mass
Praise Team and Christmas Youth Choir
- 6:00pm Mass
Cappella Choir
- 9:30pm Christmas Caroling
- 10:00pm Mass
Sanctuary Choir

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25

- 9:30am Mass
Sanctuary Choir and Tower Bells



Mass of Dedication and Blessing

of Our Church Home, Our House of Worship
December 16—What a Wonderful Day!



Watch for notice of photos and stop by the Information Table for a copy of the program



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