

SAINT
THOMAS
MORE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Our Church is a House of Prayer for all People!

Our Church and Blessed Sacrament Chapel are open
7:00am-7:00pm, seven days a week.
The door on the left side of our main doors remains unlocked.
Please enter and exit through that door.
You are always welcome!



**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

Every Day, 7:00am-7:00pm

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 3:30-4:30pm
and by appointment

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



Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016

Pastor's Column

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

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, Is a Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Families of Immigrants

December 12 is the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked that this day be a day of prayer and solidarity with families of immigrants.

Immigration reform in the United States of America is long overdue! But what kind of reform will it be? There is great fear among millions of people in our country today...

There is an insert in today's Bulletin from Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles, the Vice-President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) regarding the need to keep families together as we work for Immigration Reform.

Here also is the official statement from the USCCB regarding the "Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Families of Immigrants":

(Continued on page 2)

Did You Know?

Two weeks ago, our Parish Financial Liaison, Doug D'Agrosa, reminded us in his remarks to the Parish that our Offertory Income has increased 12% from the same time period as last year. That is the Good News!

But our Expenses for the same time period as last year have increased 16%. That is the Bad News!

Remember we are now maintaining two buildings, not just one.

Your gift to the "Did You Know?" Campaign will help us bridge that gap.

Also, this year, Christmas falls on a Sunday. This is a nightmare for a Pastor! The load might lighten liturgically, but the income lightens as well. In the past, when Christmas fell on a Sunday, we received \$10,000 to \$15,000 less in Offertory Income. Please keep this in mind as you make your Christmas Offering to the Church.

Your gift to the "Did You Know?" Campaign will also help us bridge this gap.



Pastor's Column (continued from page 1)

WASHINGTON (12/1/16)—A Day of Prayer with a focus on the plight of refugees and migrants will take place across the United States on December 12, 2016, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be a time to place before a merciful God the hopes, fears, and needs of all those families who have come to the U.S. seeking a better life.

"As Christmas approaches and especially on this feast of Our Lady, we are reminded of how our savior Jesus Christ was not born in the comfort of his own home, but rather in an unfamiliar manger," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "To all those families separated and far from home in uncertain times, we join with you in a prayer for comfort and joy this Advent season," Cardinal DiNardo added.

See more at www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-168.cfm. *F. N. [Signature]*

Anniversary of Our Dedication
December 16 | Mass at 7:00pm
Please Join Us!

**The Sultan and The Saint**

Movie screening, Saturday,
January 7, 7:00pm
Parish Center Upper Level
Refreshments at 6:30pm

With the rise of new forms of extremism across the Middle East and North Africa, Christians and Muslims around the world are facing a media narrative that pits both communities against one another.

St. Thomas More is excited to be partnering with the North County Islam Foundation to show a film that will serve as a counter-narrative to inspire Muslims, Christians, and others to take risks for peace and greater understanding.

In 1219, in the midst of the disastrous Fifth Crusade, Francis crossed enemy lines to gain an audience with al-Kamil, the Sultan of Egypt. Francis, who opposed the warfare, hoped to bring about peace by converting the Sultan to Christianity.

He didn't succeed, but came away from the peaceful encounter with revolutionary ideas that called for Christians to live harmoniously with Muslims. Thus began a relationship between the two that lasted the rest of their lives, each man risking his life to promote peace between their faiths.

This newly created documentary has been produced by Unity Productions Foundation and is narrated by Jeremy Irons.

For further information, please contact either Sr. Maureen Brown, our Pastoral Associate, at 760-758.4100 x131 or Regina Aulisio, our Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Parish Liaison, at 760-295-5530, or Issam Lagrichi, North County Islam Foundation, at 760-681-0755.

Watch the trailer at www.sultanandthesaintfilm.com.

Welcome New Parishioners

Rodney & Johanna Adorable & Family

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

| Date | Time | Parish |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sun, Dec. 11 | 4:00pm | St. Thomas More, Oceanside |
| Tue, Dec. 13 | 7:00pm | Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe |
| Wed, Dec. 14 | 7:00pm | St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad |
| Thu, Dec. 15 | 1:00pm | Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside |
| Thu, Dec. 15 | 7:00pm | Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside |
| Mon, Dec. 19 | 6:30pm | St. Mark, San Marcos |
| Tue, Dec. 20 | 6:30pm | St. James, Solana Beach |
| Wed, Dec. 21 | 6:30pm | St. Mark, San Marcos |
| Thu, Dec. 22 | 10:30am | St. Peter, Fallbrook |
| Thu, Dec. 22 | 6:00pm | St. Peter, Fallbrook |

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 |

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!

Donations for Those Affected by Hurricane Matthew

If you would like to make a donation to help the people and the Churches impacted by Hurricane Matthew, place it in an envelope and mark it Hurricane Matthew. If you write a check, please make it out to St. Thomas More with the notation, Hurricane Matthew.

Your donations can be given any time until December 31.

Also, if you wish, you can make your donations directly to Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) or Catholic Charities USA (CatholicCharitiesUSA.org).

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 11 (7)

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a,10

Psalms 146:6-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Monday, December 12 (690A)

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Patroness of the Americas

Zachariah 2:14-17 or Revelation
11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab

Judith 13:18bcd,e,19 (Psalm)

Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

Tuesday, December 13 (692)

Lucy, virgin, martyr

2 Corinthians 10:17-11:2

Psalms 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17

Matthew 25:1-13

Wednesday, December 14 (693)

John of the Cross, priest, doctor

1 Corinthians 2:1-10a

Psalms 37:3-6,30-31

Luke 14:25-33

Thursday, December 15 (190)

Isaiah 54:1-10

Psalms 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b

Luke 7:24-30

Friday, December 16 (701-706)

Anniversary of the Dedication of

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30

Psalms 122:1-4b,8-9

Ephesians 2:19-22

Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday, December 17 (193)

Genesis 49:2,8-10

Psalms 72:3-4b,7-8,17

Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18 (10)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

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

Changa Aguilera

Ernie Aichele

Mary Alexander

Carrie Autrey

Joshua Avery

Addison Abigail Aviña

Bob Baker

Rosemary Ballard

Jose Luis Barbosa

Patricia Barbour

Francine Barron

William Bartha

Clarice Bednarz

Taylor Bell

John Bennici

Regina Bentz

Lisa Berg

Roseanne Berg

Lyle Bergeson

Mary Betz

Betty Jean Bielich

Zane Breier

Janet Brown

Bill Bryson

Anita Buerger

Amelia Buono

The Cababa Family

Shelby Campbell

Breanne Campos

Aria Cappeluti

Nanette Carey

Jorge Cartajena

Donald Cashmore

Anne Caywood

Ravy Chea

The Vaughn Clevenger

Family

Anne Cline

Jacqueline Cohen

Carl & Dorothy

Coleman

James Coleman

Maria Colfer

Addie Colgan

Judy Colson

Karen Connell

Geoff Coolidge

Sandra Cracchiolo

Steven Cresencia

Lené Crowe

Antony Curione

Karen Flaharty Daley

Beverly de Gelder

Velia Deal & Family

Paul Del Vecchio

Hugo Delgado, Jr.

Cassandra D'Ercole

Christine DeSantis

Cecilia DeSimone

David deVilleneuve

Carole Dillon

Elizabeth Doherty's

Aunt Jackie

Art & Dave Dossman

Steven Douglas

Marge Egan

Jerome Elbacha

Arthur Eral

Carolyn Erickson Ey

Sally Fay

Victoria Lopez Fenton

The Fiore Family

Fr. James Flanagan

Mary Fleming

Ryan Flum

Ernie Follis

Eugene Franciscus

The Greg French

Family

Brian Frink

Jim Gallagher

The Joe Garcia Family

Kathy Gardner

Joan Gay

Alyssa Gerhard

Wendy Gonzales' Dad

Rick Gonzalez

Lou Gordon

Loretta Graskemper

George Gritt

Luke Guent

Susan Hallahan

Colleen Hanna

The Harker Family

Dorothy Harrison

Michelle Harrison &

Family

Barbara Hatem

LaNay Hazzard

Barry Henwood

Lilian Hills

Lisa Hodges

Georgia Ann Hodina

Samara Hook

Susan Hori

Iolanda Iacobelli

Katherine Jacobs

Jacqueline Johnson

Sue Johnston

Laura Kater

Dottie Kearney

Connor Kerzie

Peggy Kiernan

Debbie Kinney

Mark Kneisel

Dewey Kolbo

Tony Korwin

Faith Kowallek

Helen Kuhn

Lorene Kundert

Lillian Lachance

The Lamelin Family

Ashley LaMothe &

Family

Pauline Lapre's sister

Justine

Brandon LeBlanc

Susan Lee

Jake Lefferdink

Jeremiah Lemus

Aleah Leon

Ashley Load

Cassandra & Lauren

Loretto

Jack Lucarelli

Joaquin Maldonado

The Maldonado Family

The Maldonado Trejo

Family

Paige Mansell

Gloria Maupin

Colleen McCall

Virginia McConnell

Paige McCoy

Jerry McEniry

Ann McGeary

The McGinley Family

Ann McMahan

Bob McWilliams

Joyce Meehan

Kalei Mendiola

Lorraine Micallef

Rita Mikridge

Tom Miller

Phyllis Minaya

June Mitchell

Maria Molina

June Montgomery

Nancy Moore

Elizabeth Muehlbacher

Conrad Murphy

Eddie Murphy

Margie Myers

Andrew Philip

Nacional

Angela Nacional

Melanie Nacional

Joe Nastasi

Nida Navarro

Richard Obsitnik

Gillian Ochoa

Kare O'Dell

Laura Paciorek Gloor

Katie Padilla

Ethan Palm

Cynthia Pearson

Salina Pearson

Elisa Petrie

Merri Phelps

Helen Pingtella

Delilah Plasterer

Perry Postulka

The Joe Prokop Family

Bernie Ptak

Barbara Ramm

Randy Reznicek

Jenni Richard

Evelyn Richards

Rita Ritchie

Ralda Rizke

Lily Robinson

Bea Rocha

Maria Rogers

The Rudolph Family

The Russo Family

Rachel Sainc

Sam Sam

Cindy Sanelli

Lori Sanna

Rose Mary Saputo

Linda Schmidt

Grace Schweighofer

Joan Shea

Elizabeth Shirzad

Nick Soltau

Gilda Spiegl

Darek, Vanessa, &

Elba Spizewski

Don St. Pierre

Patricia St. Pierre

Sybil Staples

Mike Sterling

Laura Bernard Stover,

MD

Pete Sullivan

Pat Swanton

Julie Teare

Laura Thiele

Tommy & Ginger

Thompson

Maryann Tien

Sarah Tillinghast

William Tompson

Stephen Toth, Jr.

Olivia Trejo

The Trejo/Beltran

Family

The Trejo/Maldonado/

Uribe Family

Frank Urso

Martin Vertson

Lucy Vienna

Lucy Viramontes

Vanessa Vitiello

Wilson Wanner

Kevin Watson-Graff

Jerry Wechsler

Chris West

Rylee West

The Xavier Family

Patricia Zavala

Romano Zehila

Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

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

- Dec 11 Liturgy of the Word for
Children at 8

Social Ministries & Outreach

Christmas Angels

Thank you to all the Christmas Angels of our Parish. The donated ornament items were packaged this weekend for distribution to 230 children through Catholic Charities. A special thank you to the many volunteers who have generously given their time and talents to make this happen. The surplus gift cards and items that have been donated will be distributed to Solutions for Change and Fraternity House Charities. Camp Pendleton Adopt a Family packages are due this weekend, so please bring them in ASAP if you still have them. They will be delivered to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton this week.

Crown ornaments for Birth Choice items are on the tree and are due back at Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 7-8.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lisa Seufert at 760-716-0977 or leprechaun81@sbcglobal.net.

Do YOU Recycle?

The youth of the Parish have started a recycling ministry to raise money for their activities. The California CRV program provides a wonderful opportunity for fundraising, as more than 60% of the money raised through the CRV program never gets redeemed. Be sure to deposit your eligible drink containers in the blue recycling bins on the plaza after Masses. There will also be an information table on the plaza explaining how the program works.

Help Feed the Hungry

Pope Francis reminds us: "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works."

We encourage every STM family to donate one nonperishable food item each weekend when they come to Mass.

Together we can help feed the hungry in our local community.

STM \$crip News

Do you shop on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile and raise money for STM while you shop! Click the link at www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm to get started.

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**

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.

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 have park play dates on the first and third Monday of each month at a local park, and there are many other events throughout the month posted on our private Facebook page. Join us! Contact Natalia Sada at vzlanaty@yahoo.com or Estelle Eral at estelle.eral@gmail.com.



Marriage Encounter—Do you have a good marriage but want a little jumpstart? Would you and your spouse like to rediscover and reconnect with each other? Then we invite you to attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Weekends take place in San Diego and other Southern California locations throughout the year. For more information, visit www.wme.org or contact Eddie and Sheila Murphy at 760-295-0008.

Natural Family Planning—Struggling to conceive but nothing is happening? Or doctors tell you IVF is your only hope? Want to space children naturally and effectively? Come listen to a free Introductory Presentation of the Creighton Model FertilityCare system. Every third Thursday of the month. Next presentation: Thursday, December 15, 7:00pm, St. Thomas More, Parish Center Upper Level. Please RSVP with Beth at 619-630-8086 or beth@veritasfertilitycare.com.

Relationship Skills Workshops—Deacon John and Debbie Fredette present Relationship Skills Workshops every Tuesday evening, 7:00-8:30pm, at St. Thomas More in the Parish Center Lower Level through January 17. Come and explore how to improve your relationship! You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. The topic for December 13 is *The Third Option*. There is no pre-registration or fee. For more information call Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x104.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Between a Man and a Woman: "Jesus teaches that marriage is between a man and a woman. 'Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'" (Mt 19:4-6). <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—Feast then famine. It's a paradox of US and Christian church calendars that the feast of Thanksgiving is quickly followed by Advent—a season of waiting and preparation. Our culture hurries Christmas by trying to get us to fill Advent with buying and busyness. Don't let yourself be robbed of this holy time of reflection. Simplify. www.SusanVogt.net.

Parenting Pointers—Your Thanksgiving meal is probably over, but you may have leftovers. May it prompt you to reflect on your abundance. Consult your family about one way during Advent that you can use extras around your home (food, toys, tools...) to ease the lives of those who don't have as much. www.SusanVogt.net

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

Parish Events

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 84576 or email Deacon John to have your email added to the iHunger distribution group. (Note: breakfast is off-site on the first weekend of each month).

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 84576.

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild monthly luncheon meeting is this Monday, December 12, at 11:00am. in the Parish Center Lower Level, and we will celebrate an American Advent. If you haven't yet reserved your spot, contact Patty Remington, Hospitality Chair, today at cprem@pacbell.net or 760-805-6935. You can add to the festivities by bringing a treasured item from Advents and Christmases past you'd like to share a story about or place on your table as a festive decoration. Contact Genevieve Green, Program Chair, at 760-822-6605 to arrange this. A wonderful, good old American meal is being planned. There will be some quilted items available for sale as well—great for those hard-to-buy-for people in your life. I look forward to seeing you at this popular event.

The annual Christmas raffle drawing for the \$500, \$300, and \$200 prizes takes place on the plaza after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 18, with Fr. Mike "officiating." Make sure your name and phone number are on EACH ticket stub. Envelopes with stubs and donation must be returned to the Parish Office by December 15. Thanks to all who participate for your generosity. Proceeds go to the Mortgage/Building Completion Fund. Extra tickets will be available at the Monday meeting, too.

2017 will be upon us in a few weeks—hard to believe! The January 9 meeting features our Chinese Auction which is lots of fun...provided you bring some items you may not have used (or slightly used in good condition) for the auction. February 25 is the date of our Tea...chaired by Maureen Tutino and Mary Dahlberg. They are busy planning a wonderful Saturday again and invite you to decorate your table and bring your friends. Details will be forthcoming.

Light the candle, Jesus is coming! —Kathy Gerhard, president

Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon

The Spirited Seniors have planned a delicious luncheon on the first day of Winter: Wednesday, December 21. The doors will open at 11:30am, our caterer is Bobby's Hideaway Café, and the cost is \$20 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 collection or direct it to Box 12 in the Parish Office. Space is limited, the deadline is noon on December 13. Questions, please call Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-509-4545 or jandmday@cox.net.

Pictorial Directories Ready for Pickup!

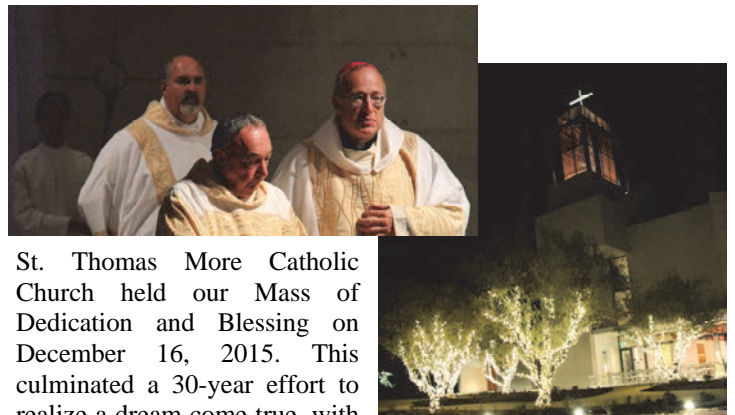
Thank you to all who had your photos taken! Our beautiful new 2016 Pictorial Directories are here, and are ready for distribution as follows:



1. **On the plaza before and after Masses the weekends of December 10-11 and December 17-18.**
2. **In the Parish Office between 8:30am and 4:00pm Monday-Friday through December 22 and again beginning January 3.**
3. **Directories are labeled and free to all Parishioners who had their pictures taken during the Lifetouch sessions at STM.**
4. **There is a \$10 charge for those who submitted photos or did not participate in the photo sessions.**
5. **Directory distribution tables will NOT be on the plaza the weekends of Christmas and New Year.**

If you have questions, please contact:
Kim Wright, 760-518-8465, kimw@stmoside.org

Dedication DVD Celebrates Our 30-Year History and Our Dedication Anniversary!



St. Thomas More Catholic Church held our Mass of Dedication and Blessing on December 16, 2015. This culminated a 30-year effort to realize a dream come true, with a beautiful liturgy, followed by a fabulous reception! **Our Dedication DVD covers our 30-year history, as well as special parts of the Mass and the reception.**

This is a special keepsake that all will want to have! **The intro and outro are narrated by Doug D'Agrosa and Linda Brault, who both served for multiple years as chairpersons of our Pastoral Council during those 30 years. This DVD has photos of our progress as we journeyed from the beginning in 1985 up to the present and the Year of Mercy as one of the eight Pilgrim Churches in the Diocese of San Diego.**

The DVD is about 53 minutes long. It is beautifully done by Thom Hiatt of Faith in Marketing! Thanks to all who helped over all the years and also in preparation for this special day and year!

DVDs are available for \$20 each on the plaza before or after all Masses, as well as in the Parish Office during working hours and online at our website, www.stmoside.org.

You may also contact Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or chris@stmoside.org

Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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



"What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see?"

Matthew 11:7

WHAT'S WITH THE ROSE-COLORED CANDLE?

The third Sunday of Advent (like the fourth Sunday of Lent) is a day of joy in the midst of a penitential season. We continue our Advent journey, but we come to a vantage point from which we can see what lies ahead—Christmas joy.

Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is called *Gaudete* Sunday (meaning "rejoice") because the of the first words of the entrance antiphon for today, from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5). The word rejoice comes up again and again in the readings and prayers for today.

The rose-colored candle (and a beautiful shade of pink it is) represents this joyful liturgy on our Advent wreath. Rose-colored vestments also may be worn as a sign of rejoicing.

Continuing the Journey

The prayers for today mark a shift from the end times to the approaching solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. In the Collect prayer, we ask that as we look forward to the birth of Christ our celebration may be one of "glad rejoicing." The Prayer after Communion asks for the fruits of the Eucharist, to "prepare us for the coming feasts" of the Christmas season.

Should commercialism or the trials of the world get us down, we need to look at the Advent wreath with its candles burning patiently, a new one each week. We light the third candle this week, the rose-colored candle, which fills us with joy as we get closer and closer to the coming of the Lord—the child who is our joy, the child who is our victory.

REJOICE!

Upcoming Music



DECEMBER 18
4th Sunday of Advent



5:00pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am

Praise Team

10:30am

Cappella Choir

The Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Church

Friday, December 16

8:15am and 7:00pm

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

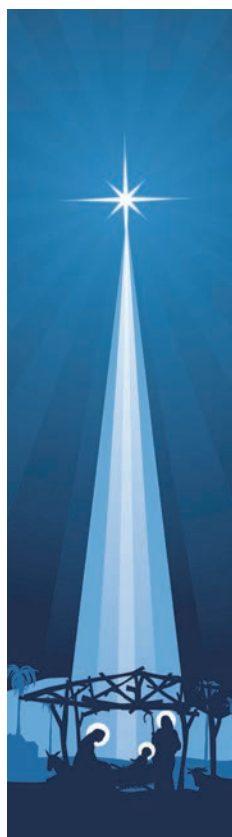
Saturday, December 24

4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm

Christmas Caroling at 9:30pm

Sunday, December 25

8:30am and 10:30am



Twelfth Night Choral Festival

Our Annual Celebration of Carols and Choirs

Sunday, January 8 | 6:00pm

at St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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 Sunday is Dec 18!

Is Your Child Enrolled In Faith Formation?

Classes are available for ages 3-Adult

Contact Debbie in the Faith Formation Office for More Info

Sacrament Prep News



TODAY—Saturday, December 10, is an M3 event for **Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation classes and their families**. Join us for 5:00pm Mass and a potluck following on the Lower Level of the Parish Center.



Sunday, January 22, 12:30pm is a **Eucharist Parent Meeting** for parents with a child in their second year of Sacrament preparation. Meet on the Parish Center Upper Level.

Adult Confirmation Preparation Begins Jan 8!

Are you an adult (19 years or older) who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2017?

Classes begin Sunday, January 8, at 7:00pm and will be held twice a month through May.

Please contact Debbie in the Faith Formation office at debbief@stmoside.org to discuss registering for the classes.

Join Us For the "Living Nativity" Performance



St. Thomas More's Youth Ministry
Proudly presents
"Living Nativity"

Sunday, December 18, at 5:00pm
Free Will Offering at the Door

Fuel Up at Tommy's Café!



Specialty Coffee/Homemade Cinnamon Rolls/Donuts/Bagels/Juices. Come check out Tommy's Café after Mass and Support Youth Ministry at our Parish.

Youth Ministry



Sunday from 4:30-6:00pm



DECEMBER 12
6:30 - DINNER
7:15 - XLT

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study News



Don't Miss Out on These Great Studies!

Register Today by Calling the Faith Formation Office at 760-758-4100 x110



Wednesday Morning
Bible Study Continues
December 14
9:00-11:00am

Thursday Evening
Bible Study Continues
December 15 | 7:00-8:30pm
for Childcare Please RSVP to debbief@stmoside.org prior to the evening of the study.

Relationship Skills Workshop



Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm

Come Find Out about "The Third Option"

The next session will be held December 13 on the Parish Center Lower Level.

No need to register, and there is no cost to attend.
Come for just some or all of the sessions.

Sunday Missals Are Here!

Sunday Missals for the new liturgical year are now available. The books are just \$5 and are available for purchase in the Parish Office during the week or at the Parish information table after all the weekend Masses. They will sell out fast, so do not wait. Get yours today!

The Ark Nursery



Open during the 10:30am Mass for children up to 5 years of age.
Contact Lia Keane at liak@stmoside.org for more information or to buy your ARK card.



Mondays 7:00-10:00pm

contact Matt Franklin mattf@stmoside.org

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Collection for Week of December 3/4, 2016

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Registered Households | 1,236 |
| Offertory | \$23,428.21 |
| Offertory (Loose Collection) | \$1,049.00 |
| Total | \$24,477.21 |

Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income

November, 2016

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Mortgage Offering Collected | \$42,734.75 |
| Mortgage Payment Due | \$44,806.21 |
| Payment toward Parish Reserves * | \$0.00 |
| Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)* | (\$2,071.46) |

Memorial Items toward Building Completion Fund \$3,700.00

Please continue to support the
Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!

**Mortgage Payment overage will be applied to Parish Reserves*

"Did You Know " Collection November 2016

\$7,255.13

Restaurant Fundraisers November 2016

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rosati's | \$572.72 |
| Nucci's | \$163.65 |
| Chili's | \$110.00 |

2016 YEAR-END CHECKLIST

Got Deductions?



- † **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 Friday, December 23, 2016, at noon and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.**
- † Donations received at the Saturday, December 31, 2016 Vigil Mass will be credited in the 2016 tax year.
- † **Envelopes POSTMARKED by Saturday, December 31, 2016, will be counted toward the 2016 tax year.**
- † **Annual Catholic Appeal** ~ Parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude payments by December 31, 2016. *(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

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A Stewardship Prayer for December

Heavenly Father,

You give us this blessed season of Advent
as a gift of time to prepare for the
coming of the Christ Child.

But all too often we turn this gift into a
source of frenzy, stress, and anxiety;
a time when we're apt to prepare for
a Christmas celebration looking perfect
on the outside, but spiritually exhausting
and without true meaning.

Restore in us that inherent quest
for quiet expectation and hope.
Show us the way to a more peaceful,
prayerful disposition
that makes us more open to
a conversion of heart.

And give us the courage to let go of things
that are ultimately unimportant
to the true meaning of Christmas.

Help us be good stewards of this Advent season,
so that on the Feast of the Nativity,
we will be ready with our own sacred space
for the arrival of your Son,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we now pray.
Amen

—ICSC Stewardship e-bulletin, December 2016 (with permission)

**An important consideration for the Christian
steward is to remember that the Christmas
need to give extends far beyond family.**

Memorial Item Donations Available

Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

Bronze Sculpture for
Daily Mass Chapel \$30,000

Parish Offices

Metal Framing Exterior Walls \$60,000

HVAC Components \$55,000

Roofing \$45,000

Exterior Windows and Doors \$45,000

Exterior Brick \$30,000

Plumbing \$30,000

Plumbing Finish and Fixtures \$10,000

Memorial Item Donations Partial

Jesus, Divine Redeemer and

Master of the Universe Mosaic Panels \$5,000/each
for Memorial Garden
(54) 12 available

Priests' Concelebration Vestments \$400/each
(4) 4 available

Pew Seating for the Church \$300/each
(1,000) 706 available

Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs \$300/each
(200) 93 available

Altar Server Albs \$125/each
(15) 8 available

Pipe Organ—Our pipe organ is our
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pipe organ will be accepted \$850,000

11/01/16

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



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

The Larger Church News

An Advent Evening with Cy Kellet—Tuesday, December 13, 6:30pm, St. Patrick Church, Carlsbad.

Casa de Molina Children's Christmas Party—Saturday, December 16. Volunteers and donors needed. For more information, contact Vicky Molina at mother5@cox.net

John Paul the Great Catholic University Master of Arts in Biblical Theology—For more information, go to www.jpccatholic.com or contact 858-653-6740 x1117.

The Glory of the Lord Shines upon You: Epiphanies in LGBT Lives—January 6-8, 2017; Non-silent Retreat for Women and Men at The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, California; Fr. Michael Zampelli, SJ; Dr. Sheila Nelson; and, Mr. Gregory Dale Schultz. A weekend retreat for the LGBT community to relax and reflect on the mysteries of Incarnation and Epiphany... Information Contact: reservations@jrclosaltos.org.

Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic "Day of Dialogue"—Saturday, January 21, 9:30am-12:00noon, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. \$25 at the door or send check with name, address, phone number, and email to Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, 17252 Bernardo Center Dr., San Diego, CA 92128.

† † †

Detention Ministry Volunteers Needed—Spend a couple hours per week or once per month to serve on a ministry team and pray, read scripture, and facilitate discussion with Catholic inmates. Information and Training Seminar scheduled for January 10. Visit www.sdcatholic.org/restore or contact 858-490-8375 or jwalsh@sdccatholic.org for more information.

Young Adult Opportunities around the Diocese

The Young Catholic Professionals Speakers Series presents author and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Steve Breen on Tue, Dec 13 at 7:00pm, Ascension Catholic Church, 11292 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. Come hear Steve's faith walk as a Catholic professional. All are welcome! For more information visit www.yamsd.org.

Catholic Radio—AM 1000/Sirius 130—San Diego

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Parish Contacts

Updated 11/20/2016

Council Chairpersons: Pastoral-Lisa Attardo 760- 940-1505 • Finance-Ron Briseno 760-224-3105 • Development-Jody Cadieux 760-809-9761

Pastoral Council Committees

Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization

Rory Griffin 760-414-3939
 Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (RE.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..... Lia Haubert 760-758-4100 x100
 Natalia Sada 760-758-4100 x100
 Estelle Eral 760-758-4100 x100
 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 x104
 Women's Ministry Lia Keane 760-586-8049
 Vocations Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161

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 Goscinski 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 760-758-4100

Parish Organizations & Events..... Patrick 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 Goscinski 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
 Lee Cocco 760-598-6248
 Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
 Social Justice Committee Henri Black 760-758-8137
 Interfaith Center for Worker Justice
 Joyce Meehan 760-304-0373
 San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)
 Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

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

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal..... Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
 New Construction Brian Leahey 760-224-1674
 Parish Membership Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703
 Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
 Publicity/Public Relations..... Jane Gladden 760-659-6168
 Scrip Sales Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389
 Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965
 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 x104 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
 Lia Keane, Director of Ark Nursery 760-758-4100 x100 liak@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
 Rebecca Eyer, Sacristan 760-758-4100 x100 rebecca@stmoside.org
 Brian Leahey, Director of Construction..... 760-758-4100 x152 brianl@stmoside.org

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A Way Forward on Immigration

December 5, 2016 | Catholic News Service | By Archbishop José H. Gómez

Editor's Note: In the wake of the national elections, we are posting a series of columns from leading archbishops on key issues facing the church and the new Trump administration. Today's guest column was written by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as a national day of prayer for migrants and refugees.

This day of prayer comes at a time of fear, unrest, and uncertainty in our country—especially for our immigrant brothers and sisters who are undocumented and their children and loved ones.

Everyone agrees that our immigration system is broken—and it has been for more than a decade. The blame cuts across party lines and we cannot find many examples of moral leadership or political courage to point to.

We are deeply concerned about the president-elect because of his drastic campaign promises regarding deportations.

But we also know that the outgoing administration has deported more than 2.5 million people in the past eight years—more than any other administration in history. And the vast majority of those deported are not violent criminals. In fact, up to one-quarter are mothers and fathers that our government is seizing from ordinary households.

That is the sad truth about immigration policy in America today. Our system has been broken for so long, our politicians have failed to act for so long that the people we are now punishing have become our neighbors.

Most of the 11 million undocumented people in the US have been living here for five years or more. Two-thirds have been here for at least a decade. Almost half are living in homes with a spouse and children.

*[Earlier: Racism is a disease that must be cured, by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory]**

In addition, there are an estimated 1.8 million young people who were brought here as children by their undocumented parents. They are living in a kind of limbo — in many states they cannot enroll in college or get jobs.

This is the human reality of being undocumented in America. We have millions of people living on the edge of our economy and society, living in constant fear that one day without warning they

will be deported and never see their families again.

And when you look into the eyes of a child whose father has been deported—and I have done that—we realize how inadequate our politics is.

Undocumented immigrants have become a kind of “scapegoat,” an easy target to blame for broader problems in our economy and society.

*[Earlier: What the pro-life community wants from the Trump administration, by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan]**

Many of our neighbors today rightly feel vulnerable and unprotected—they are worried

about jobs, wages, the decline of their communities, the threat of terrorism, the security of our borders. We cannot simply dismiss their concerns or label them as nativists or racists, as some have. What our neighbors are worried about is real and we need to take their concerns seriously.

But undocumented workers are not the problem. The real problem is globalization and deindustrialization and what that is doing to our economy, to our family structures and neighborhoods. This is not a “white working class” issue only, as the media reports it. Whites, Latinos, Asians, blacks and others are all suffering from the breakdown of the family and the vanishing of good-paying jobs that make it possible to support a family.

Right now, we need to stop allowing politicians and media figures to make immigration a “wedge issue” that divides us. We need to come together to study these issues and find solutions.

The truth is there actually is broad public consensus on a way forward.

*[Earlier: Advancing the freedom to serve, by Archbishop William E. Lori]**

There is broad agreement that our nation has the obligation to secure its borders and determine who enters the country and how long they stay. There is also broad agreement that we need to update our immigration system to enable us to welcome newcomers who have the character and skills our country needs to grow.

There is even broad consensus on how to deal with the undocumented persons living among us.

Virtually every poll has found overwhelming support for granting them a generous path to citizenship, provided they meet certain requirements, such as learning English, paying some fines, and holding a job that pays taxes.

These basic points should form the basis for immigration reform that is just and merciful.

We have a consensus in public opinion. What we are waiting for is politicians and media figures who have the will and the courage to tell the truth and to lead.

**Links to this and other stories:*

<https://cnstopstories.com/2016/12/05/a-way-forward-on-immigration/>

<https://cnstopstories.com/2016/12/01/racism-is-a-disease-that-must-be-cured/>

<https://cnstopstories.com/2016/11/29/what-the-pro-life-community-wants-from-the-trump-administration/>

<https://cnstopstories.com/2016/11/30/advancing-the-freedom-to-serve/>



CNS/EPA



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Living Nativity

SUN. 12.18.16

5:00pm PARISH CENTER UPPER LEVEL

*free will offering

A blue-toned illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, silhouettes of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger are visible. Behind them are other figures, possibly shepherds or angels, and palm trees. A bright star shines in the sky, with a beam of light shining down from it onto the manger.

St. Thomas More Oceanside | 1450 S. Melrose Dr. 92056 | 760-758-4100