

SAINT
THOMAS
MORE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

*Jesus was led ...
into the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil.
—Luke 4:1*



*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



**First Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2017**

Pastor's Column

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

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me...

In the Scriptures from the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46, we are given the "Judgment of the Nations."

In this passage, Jesus identifies himself with the poor, the hungry, the naked, and the stranger.

There are no qualifications of the poor, the hungry, the naked, and the stranger by ethnicity, race, or religion!

Very simply, he says: "I am the poor, I am the hungry, I am the naked, and I am the stranger. What you did or not do for them, you did or did not do for me."

It is on this that we will be judged!

In September of 2015, Pope Francis asked every Parish in Europe to sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family. Our Parish felt that this call should be extended not only to Europe, but to the entire world, to the United States of America, especially in our present political climate.

And so STM has responded to the call!

With the help of Catholic Charities of San Diego, we have been linked to a Syrian Refugee Family.

(Continued on page 2)



2017 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)

Thank you to those who have already responded!

Pray about your response.

Visit www.sdccatholic.org/ACA.

Choose to donate online to the Diocese.

Watch a video about the ACA:

<https://tinyurl.com/haxkvgp>



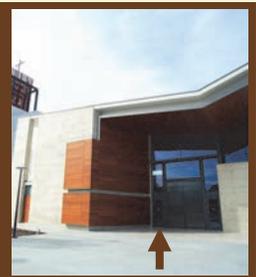
Our Church is a House of Prayer for all People!

**Our Church and Blessed Sacrament Chapel are open
7:00am-7:00pm, every day.**

The door on the left side of our main doors remains unlocked.

Please enter and exit through that door.

You are always welcome!



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

Just six weeks ago, the family arrived in San Diego! They arrived just a few days before the Immigration Ban ordered by President Trump. (Presently the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has refused to reinstate the President's Executive Order barring travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States.)

This family is from war-torn Aleppo, Syria. After four years of war, the family fled to Turkey and lived in a Refugee Camp for 18 months.

The father has a B.A. degree and is an accountant, his wife is an aspiring clothing designer, and they have five children.

Life in the Refugee Camp consisted of undergoing an almost daily extreme vetting process before being allowed into the U.S. to be sponsored by Catholic Charities.

A couple of weeks ago, a few of us met them in their tiny apartment in El Cajon. We asked: "How can we help you?"

The father responded: "You can give me a fish or you can teach me to be a fisherman. I would like you to teach me to be a fisherman!"

The father is an accountant with a B.A. degree in Economics, but he is willing to take any work he can find while learning English and the American Accounting system. His wife is a stay-at-home mom who would like to earn money designing and selling clothing.

The parents' first priority for their children is to make sure that they continue to learn English and that they continue with their education in order to be productive U.S. citizens.

Our Parish is committed to welcome Jesus, the stranger, this family, into our country and into our lives.

Obviously, much is needed to help them to settle into life here and to begin a new normal routine.

Please take time to read the flyer in today's bulletin. See if you may have an item you are no longer using that may be significant to this family. They have many, many needs as they begin a new life in the United States.

Know that I am grateful that you are willing to take Matthew 25:31-46 seriously.

Once again, as our Parish is saying to the Stranger, "Welcome," we are saying to Jesus, "Welcome!"

Whatever you may be able to do to help this family will be very much appreciated.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

We will provide frequent updates to you about the family, their ongoing needs, and their progress as they transition from refugees to U.S. citizens.

In the near future, they will be coming to St. Thomas More for a visit and you will be able to personally welcome them to the United States.

F. Mike

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

Welcome New Parishioners

**Brian & Jessica Howard & Family
Nancy Whiteside**

Congratulations to

Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz

who celebrate their 46th anniversary of marriage on March 6.

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:

Sherry Farquar, who died on February 20. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, March 24, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Eugene Wade, who died on February 21. His funeral services will be in April at Fort Rosecrans. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Katherine Bollaert, who died on February 22. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 28, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Dorothy Greig, who died on February 28. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, March 16, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep 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 |

STM Scrip News

Do you attend the 5:00pm Mass? Can you spare 20 minutes after Mass? If so, the Scrip Ministry would like your help to sell Scrip. Please contact Andrea Sweeney at 626-824-7973 or scrip@stmoside.org. Volunteers for the other Masses are needed as well. Remember this Ministry supports our Church Operation Fund.

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.

**Readings
for the Week Ahead**

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

Sunday, March 5 (224)
First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7
Psalm 51:3-6,12-14,17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Monday, March 6 (224)
Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18
Psalm 19:8-10,15
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday, March 7 (538)
Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
Romans 8:31b-39
Psalm 124:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 10:34-39

Wednesday, March 8 (539)
John of God, religious
1 John 3:14-18
Psalm 112:1bc-9
Matthew 25:31-40

Thursday, March 9 (540)
Frances of Rome, religious
Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
Psalm 34:2-11
Matthew 22:34-40

Friday, March 10 (228)
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalm 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, March 11 (229)
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, March 12 (22)
Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

| Mass Intentions |
|---|
| Saturday, March 4, 5:00pm Scott Loftis ☩ |
| Sunday, March 5, 8:30am Mary Bruzas ☩ |
| Sunday, March 5, 10:30am Cesarina Morelli ☩ |
| Monday, March 6, 8:15am Owen Fredette ☩ |
| Tuesday, March 7, 8:15am Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered |
| Wednesday, March 8, 8:15am Gratitude for Prayers Answered |
| Thursday, March 9, 8:15am Renee Villa ☩ |
| Friday, March 10, 8:15am Patricia Brady ☩ |
| Saturday, March 11, 5:00pm Ed Dolnik ☩ |
| Sunday, March 12, 8:30am Matthew |
| Sunday, March 12, 10:30am Jean Ratajczak ☩ |

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

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Change Aguilera | Betty Golden Brown & the Golden Family | Clay Murray |
| Ernie Aichele | Wendy Gonzales' Dad | Margie Myers |
| Mary Alexander | Rick Gonzalez | Andrew Philip |
| The Alves Family | Lou Gordon | Nacional |
| Carrie Autrey | The Greig Family | Angela Nacional |
| Joshua Avery | George Gritt | Melanie Nacional |
| Addison Abigail Aviña | Luke Guent | Nida Navarro |
| Bob Baker | Susan Hallahan | Richard Obsitnik |
| Rosemary Ballard | Charlene Hammonds | Gillian Ochoa |
| The Barbera Family | Dwayne Hammonds | Kare O'Dell |
| Jose Luis Barbosa | Colleen Hanna | Laura Paciorek Gloor |
| Patricia Barbour | The Harker Family | Katie Padilla |
| Francie Barron | Dorothy Harrison | Ethan Palm |
| Clarice Bednarz | Michelle Harrison & Family | Cynthia Pearson |
| Taylor Bell | Barbara Hatem | Kaili Pearson |
| John Bennici | LaNay Hazzard | Salina Pearson |
| Regina Bentz | Matthew Henry & Family | Elisa Petrie |
| Lisa Berg | Barry Henwood | Merri Phelps |
| Roseanne Berg | Lilian Hills | Roxanne Pietila |
| Betty Jean Bielich | Lisa Hodges | Helen Pingtella |
| The Bollaert Family | Georgia Ann Hodina | Delilah Plasterer |
| Lynda Brady | Concetta Hollenbeck | Perry Postulka |
| Zane Breier | Samara Hook | The Joe Prokop Family |
| Janet Brown | Susan Hori | Bernie Ptak |
| Anita Buerger | Iolanda Iacobelli | Barbara Ramm |
| Amelia Buono | Katherine Jacobs | The Reznicek Family |
| Shelby Campbell | The Jaime/Rosas Family | Jenni Richard |
| Breanne Campos | Jacqueline Johnson | Evelyn Richards |
| Aria Cappeluti | Sue Johnston | Pat Richart |
| Nanette Carey | Laura Kater | Rita Ritchie |
| Jorge Cartajena | Dottie Kearney | Ralda Rizke |
| Donald Cashmore | Connor Kerzie | Lily Robinson |
| Anne Caywood | Peggy Kiernan | Mateo Rodriguez |
| Ravy Chea | Debbie Kinney | Maria Rogers |
| Della Clarke | Mark Kneisel | The Russo Family |
| The Vaughn Clevenger Family | Dewey Kolbo | Rachel Sainc |
| Anne Cline | Tony Korwin | Sam Sam |
| Carl & Dorothy Coleman | Helen Kuhn | Cindy Sanelli |
| James Coleman | Lorene Kundert | Lori Sanna |
| Maria Colfer | Lillian Lachance | Rose Mary Saputo |
| Addie Colgan | The Lamelin Family | Linda Schmidt |
| Clara Collins | Ashley LaMothe & Family | Grace Schweighofer |
| Judy Colson | The Landis Family | Joan Shea |
| Karen Connell | Pauline Lapre's sister | Elizabeth Shirzad |
| Geoff Coolidge | Justine | Erma Silipigni |
| Sandra Cracchiolo | Brandon LeBlanc | Barb Slabaugh |
| Steven Cresencia | Susan Lee | Nick Soltau |
| Lené Crowe | Jake Lefferdink | Gilda Spiegl |
| Karen Flaharty Daley | Jeremiah Lemus | Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski |
| Beverly de Gelder | Aleah Leon | Don St. Pierre |
| Velia Deal & Family | David Lewis | Patricia St. Pierre |
| Paul Del Vecchio | Ashley Load | Joy Stanton |
| Hugo Delgado, Jr. | Cassandra & Lauren Loretto | Sybil Staples |
| Cassandra D'Ercole | Jack Lucarelli | Mike Sterling |
| Christine DeSantis | Joaquin Maldonado | Laura Bernard Stover, MD |
| Cecilia DeSimone | The Maldonado Family | Pete Sullivan |
| David deVilleneuve | The Maldonado Trejo Family | Pat Swanton |
| Carole Dillon | Paige Mansell | Julie Teare |
| Judith DiMatteo | Gloria Maupin | Bob & Marsha Terhall |
| Elizabeth Doherty's Aunt Jackie | Colleen McCall | Laura Thiele |
| Art & Dave Dossman | Virginia McConnell | Tommy & Ginger Thompson |
| Tyler Drake | Paige McCoy | Maryann Tien |
| Steven Douglas | Jerry McEniry | Sarah Tillinghast |
| Marge Egan | Ann McGear | William Tompson |
| Jerome Elbacha | The McGinley Family | Stephen Toth, Jr. |
| Arthur Eral | Ann McMahan | Olivia Trejo |
| Carolyn Erickson Ey | Bob McWilliams | The Trejo/Beltran Family |
| Victoria Lopez Fenton | Joyce Meehan | The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family |
| The Farquar Family | Kalei Mendiola | Frank Urso |
| The Fiore Family | Lorraine Micallef | The Vanderheyden Family |
| Fr. James Flanagan | Rita Mikridge | Martin Vertson |
| Mary Fleming | Steven Sr., Stevie, & Noah Miller | Lucy Vienna |
| Ryan Flum | Tom Miller | Lucy Viramontes |
| Ernie Follis | Phyllis Minaya | Vanessa Vitiello |
| The Fortaliza Family | June Mitchell | The Wade Family |
| Eugene Franciscus | Maria Molina | Wilson Wanner |
| The Greg French Family | June Montgomery | Kevin Watson-Griff |
| Brian Frink | Nancy Moore | Jerry Wechsler |
| Jim Gallagher | Ryan Moquin | Elaine Weiler |
| Alba Garcia | Elizabeth Muehlbacher | Rylee West |
| The Joe Garcia Family | Conrad Murphy | The Xavier Family |
| Kathy Gardner | Eddie Murphy | Patricia Zavala |
| Joan Gay | | Jeanne Zeltner |
| Alyssa Gerhard | | |
| Dan Gilman | | |

Calendar Highlights

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

- Mar 6 Spirited Seniors and Women's Guild Day of Recollection
- Mar 7-8 Restaurant Fundraiser at Rosati's in Vista
- Mar 8 Symbolon Part 2 begins
- Mar 10 Knights of Columbus Lenten Dinner
- Mar 12 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- Mar 19 Choristers Guild Festival Concert
- Mar 20 Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service
- Mar 21-22 Restaurant Fundraiser at Nucci's in Vista
- Apr 2 New Member Luncheon
- Apr 13 Holy Thursday 7:00pm
- Apr 14 Good Friday 3:00pm
- Apr 15 Easter Vigil 8:00pm
- Apr 16 Easter Sunday Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am
- Apr 28 RBVHS Wind Ensemble Concert
- Apr 29 Spring Ring Handbell Festival Concert
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo Gala
- May 21 Knights of Columbus Breakfast

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

Deployed Military

As a faith community let us pray for all who serve our country in these troubled times. We pray especially for those connected to our Parish who have been deployed:

- Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.
- Lt. Devon Czarzasty
- Major Branden M. Felker, USAF
- ET1 Patrick G. Felker, USN
- Grant Fischer
- Gunnery Sgt. Julian Fyffe, USMC
- 1st Lt. Eric Galamay
- MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
- Sgt. Alex Garcia
- Adolfo Granados, MD, US Navy
- PFC Samuel Haro, US Army
- Staff Sgt Stephan LaMothe, USAF
- 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 CTR2, US Navy
- Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
- Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC
- MGY SGT Paul Weisinger

Social Ministries & Outreach

Why Brother Benno's?

Because they are the agency that serves more poor and homeless in North County than any other. Once each year, Brother Benno's asks us to conduct a food and diaper drive to aid the homeless and poor they serve. Please be generous as always and donate nonperishable food items and much needed and appreciated baby and adult diapers. That which you donate goes directly to Brother Benno's. Deacon Tom will have trucks available in the parking lot before all Masses on March 4-5.

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. Note that Gatorade and other sweetened beverages are not recommended.

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



Considering Becoming Catholic?

In recent weeks a number of people have expressed interest in becoming Catholic, and so a new group will begin the RCIA process this winter.

If you know of someone who is considering joining the Church, NOW would be an excellent time to encourage them to "come and see."

We will meet two Sundays each month from 9:00-10:20am on the Parish Center Lower Level. This will become a weekly meeting in a few months, leading to initiation in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil 2018.

Anyone interested should contact Kathleen Bell soon at 760-809-6526 or 80bell80@gmail.com

Everyone in RCIA has a sponsor who welcomes them into the St. Thomas More community and walks through the process with them as a guide. If you would like to be a sponsor and enrich your faith journey, please contact Kathleen right away.

HELP WANTED!

STM Mental Health Ministry Network

STM is a member of the San Diego Mental Health Ministry Network and has made a commitment to become a faith community that both understands mental illness and can provide compassionate support. If you or a loved one is experiencing mental health challenges, or if you would like to find out how to become a member, please contact us 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 have park play dates twice a 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.



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!

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.wvme.org or contact Eddie and Sheila Murphy at 760-295-0008.

Separated or Divorced?—The Separated/Divorce Ministry of St. James' Parish invites those going through the pain of separation and divorce to find help and healing in a supportive small group setting. Meetings are held each Sunday at 10:15am at St. James Catholic Church at 625 South Nardo Ave., Solana Beach. Contact Frank Grant at (760)-533-1520 or fwgrant@gmail.com for more information.

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. Next presentation: Thursday, March 16, 7:00pm, St. Thomas More, Parish Center Upper Level. Please RSVP with Beth at 619-630-8086 or beth@veritasfertilitycare.com.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Imitating Christ: "Christian spouses are called to this imitation of Christ, an imitation that is possible only because, in the Sacrament of Matrimony, the couple receives a participation in his love. As a sacrament, marriage signifies and makes present in the couple Christ's total self-gift of love. Their mutual gift of self, conferred in their promises of fidelity and love to the end, becomes a participation in the love to the end by which Christ gave himself to the Church as to a Spouse (see Jn 13:1)." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

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

Knights of Columbus Lenten Dinners

Join us every Friday during Lent through April 7. Dinner begins at 5:00pm and will be served on the Parish Center **Upper Level**. We are serving until 7:00pm so families will be able to join us. Dinner includes baked fish or shrimp scampi, including mac & cheese. Families with children pay no more than \$25. Check the Parish website or the recent flyer for details!



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 Third Annual Tea was a huge success, with approximately 104 ladies (young and old!) in attendance. We netted close to \$2,500 that will go toward the STM Mortgage/Building Completion Fund. Many thanks to all who helped put it all together and worked behind the scenes to make sure all went according to plan. The tables were beautifully decorated, the food was divine, prizes awarded to those with the best decorated tables and best hats. Everyone enjoyed their day and are looking forward to next year's tea!

Monday, March 6, is the Day of Recollection, sponsored by Spirited Seniors and Women's Guild. Fr. Michael Robertson, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton in La Costa, is our speaker and will provide inspiration as we venture through the season of Lent. Mass will be celebrated, followed by a light lunch. Father will conclude after lunch and the Stations of the Cross will close out this spiritual opportunity.

The March 13 Women's Guild luncheon meeting is fast approaching, so be sure to reserve your spot with Hospitality Chair, Patty Remington, at cprem@pacbell.net or 760-805-6935. The guest speaker, Joanie Miringhoff, is head docent of the non-profit Flower Fields in Carlsbad, and will share with us how the project evolved and what it offers for the surrounding community. I look forward to seeing you there!

The semi-annual Bake Sale takes place on the plaza the weekend of March 25-26. Be sure to stop by the tables for a delectable goodie to take home and share (or not to share!). Parishioners whose last names begin with A through H will be phoned and requested to bring a home baked item for the sale. Donations are also welcomed.

Also on the horizon is the ever-popular Women's Guild Annual Fashion Show. Save the date: Saturday, April 8, at Shadowridge Golf Club. This year, Chico's fashions will be modeled; seating is limited so be sure to put it on your calendar, and watch for the flyer in the bulletin soon. Updates will also be provided at the March 13 meeting by Sondra Parks, Fashion Show Chair.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2017-2018 Women's Guild Board of Directors. Please contact Trish Feeley, Nominating Committee Chair, at 760-685-6227 if you or someone you know would be interested in serving on our Board next year.

May the Lord bless our efforts, both in fundraising and in making this Lenten season one of our personal bests!

—Kathy Gerhard, president

CINCO de GALA May 5, 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for your invitation
with details in the mail

or

stop by the Gala table on the plaza
beginning the weekend of March 11-12.

2016 Sponsor signs will also be
appearing that weekend.

For more information, contact
Chris Smith at chriss@stmoside.org
or 760-758-4100 x120.

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.**

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 chriss@stmoside.org

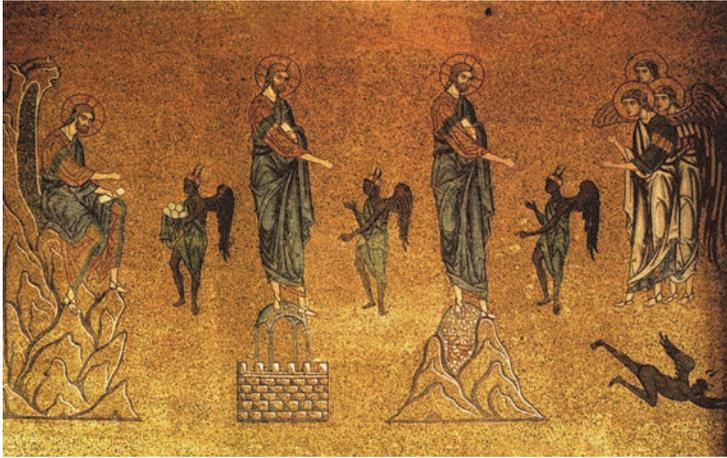
Looking for a Way to Be Involved?

Visit our website (www.stmoside.org) and click on Get Involved for an easy way to find the perfect ministry to fit your time and talent!



Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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



Jesus was led ...
 into the desert for
 forty days, to be
 tempted by the
 devil.

Luke 4:1

WHAT ARE THE SCRUTINIES?

Confronted with Jesus; Responding in Faith — part 1

Text by
 Kristopher W. Seaman
 © 2017
 Archdiocese of Chicago
 Liturgy Training
 Publications;
 www.LTP.org
 Pastoral Liturgy
 magazine,
 January/February 2017
 PastoralLiturgy.org
 With permission

The liturgical part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) begins with the Rite of Welcome, which we celebrate occasionally as new people enter the RCIA as catechumens and candidates. During Lent the liturgical portion of the RCIA resumes. On the First Sunday, we celebrate the Rite of Sending, in which the Parish sends its catechumens to the bishop for the Rite of Election. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Elect, as they will then be, continue their preparation with the scrutinies at the 5:00pm Mass.

In a series of essays over the next few weeks we will explore the scrutinies and the Gospel readings proclaimed on those final Sundays of Lent, and how these readings illuminate the stages of conversion and deepen insight for those seeking the initiation sacraments, so that we might more powerfully participate in our role as part of this faith community.

—Douglas

Not long before the start of Lent one year, a new minister of Christian initiation approached me. I could see he was agitated, yet hesitant to talk.

Finally, he told me he saw that scrutinies were scheduled to take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent for those

preparing to become Christians at the Easter Vigil. He feared that during the rite, these individuals, whom we call the elect, or chosen, would be questioned before all assembled for Mass. I praised him for his concern and told him that the three scrutinies of the Christian initiation process do not parallel a courtroom cross-examination.

The scrutinies are formed in the language of liturgical prayer. During the scrutiny, those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil typically kneel down, and the presider and assembly pray over them, asking God to strengthen and assist them to more clearly live out God's love. At this time, these individuals are also invited, with God's help, to turn away from sin and evil. The rite states:

The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and give them strength in Christ. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141).

This turning from sin and evil to God's love does not happen in an instant. Rather, the elect need to pray and receive support as they attempt to turn toward God's love and resist sin and evil. The scrutinies are meant to heal. The benefits of the scrutinies are significant. First, the context is the liturgical assembly. The elect have been part of the already established prayer life of the Church, learning (or as Pope Benedict XVI aptly called it "being schooled") in the way the Church prays, lives, and breathes.

Secondly, the local church prays for and over these elect. Hands are laid on them in prayer, suggesting that the Church is not only asking God's strength and assistance—the Church itself is there to be a sign and presence of strength, especially in the face of trial. It is a healing touch. Thirdly, the entire Church has the opportunity to consider its need for God's help to be healed and strengthened. The elect are not the only ones in need of God's assistance. Each person in the assembly needs to continuously look to God as they try to resist sin and evil. As we participate in the scrutinies as part of the assembly, we should examine our "schooling" in the love of God. All Christian disciples need to continually examine how they are open to participating in God's love. This rite is a witness to the "skills" (prayers) needed to live daily what Christian discipleship is about—God's love in the midst of sin and evil.

Upcoming Music

✠

MARCH 12
**2nd Sunday of
 Lent**

✠

5:00pm

Praise Team

8:30am

Cappella Choir

10:30am

Tower Bells

Are you generous with a smile?

Easter is coming, and so are the visitors and extended family members! Hospitality ministers are needed!

Can you serve? Training is provided!

Contact Joyce Meehan, Hospitality Coordinator, at joycem@stmoside.org or on the plaza this weekend!

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 March 12!

Make faith an important part of your family's life!
Enroll Your Child in Faith Formation for 2017!
Classes are available for ages 3-Adult
Contact Debbie in the Faith Formation office for Info

Sacrament Prep News



Sunday, March 26, is a First Communion Parent Meeting for families with children in their second year of Sacrament Preparation. Please meet on the Upper Level of the Parish Center at **12:30pm**.



Saturday, March 4, is an M3 event for Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation classes and their families. Join us for 5:00pm Mass and a potluck and message following on the Lower Level of the Parish Center. All families are asked to be in attendance for this event.

Steubenville Orange County 2017



Find out more about fundraising and attending this event with our Parish at an informational meeting for parents and teens going into grades 9-12. **TODAY, Sunday March 5 at 3:00pm on the Parish Center Lower Level.**

The Ark Nursery



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

Adult Faith Formation

New Faith Study Begins March 8

PART 2 SYMBOLON
THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

Wednesday Mornings, Beginning March 8
9:00-11:00am for 10 sessions.

Held on the Parish Center Upper Level.
Contact the Faith Formation office or Patt Goeltz at pattg@stmoside.org for dates and more info.

Books for Lent



Little Books for Lent are now available for purchase in the Parish Office for just \$2. Little Books for Children and Little Books in Spanish are also available. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to purchase.



Waiting for a Miracle books by Dr. Cyndi Peterson are still available for purchase in the Faith Formation office for \$15.

Adult Confirmation Prep Continues

Are you an adult (19 years or older) who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2017? **Classes have begun!** Next class is scheduled for **Sunday, March 12, at 7:00pm** and classes will continue twice a month through May. Please contact Debbie in the Faith Formation office at debbief@stmoside.org to discuss registering for the classes.

Support Tommy's Café!



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

Youth Ministry



Middle School

Sunday, 4:30-6:00pm

High School
IGNITE
ST. THOMAS MORE
oceanside, ca
Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm

THRIVE
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Monday, 7:00-10:00pm

Contact Matt Franklin at 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 February 21 – 27, 2017 | |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of Registered Households | 1,234 |
| Offertory | \$10,232.18 |
| Offertory (Loose Collection) | \$1,332.00 |
| Total | \$11,564.18 |

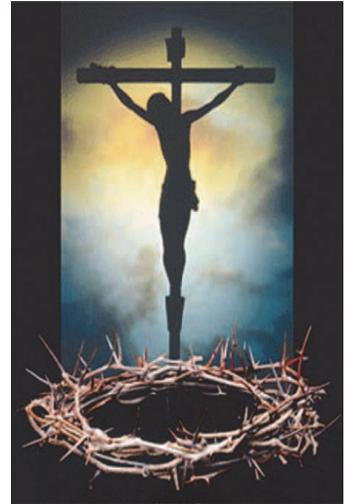
| Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income | |
|--|---------------------|
| January, 2017 | |
| Mortgage Offering Collected | \$41,951.00 |
| Mortgage Payment Due | \$44,806.21 |
| Payment toward Parish Reserves* | \$0.00 |
| Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall) | (\$2,855.21) |
| <hr/> | |
| Memorial Items toward Building Completion Fund | \$600.00 |
| Please continue to support the Mortgage/Building Completion Fund! | |
| * Mortgage Payment overage will be applied to Parish Reserves | |

Spiritual Technology ~ Christian Stewardship

Stewardship provides a “spiritual technology” by which a person translates faith vision into faith life.

“How to” books are extremely popular. Many of us have a strong practical side. A methodology that takes a theory and brings it into real life is very attractive.

Once we see what ought to be done, we want to see it happen. Being deprived of the tools to bring this about causes us to be discouraged and depressed.



True giving involves sacrifice. God knows the real value of our gift because he knows the amount of sacrifice that is behind each gift. We should strive to be Godlike in our giving.

God comes first, not last. Otherwise, we give him only the leftovers after we have made sure that we have provided for our own comforts. The principle of sacrificial giving is that our giving to God comes off the top of all that he has given us. Otherwise, some would say it is not a true offering, just a tip left at the table.

Christian Stewardship provides spiritual technology that allows us to answer our vocation to sharing and caring. In our daily lives, we live out its values as individuals and as a community.

As such, stewardship shuns abstractions and romanticism. It is concrete and real, plunging us into a messy world that needs loving care.

Christian Stewardship gets things done. It does not deny responsibility or accountability: it doesn't let the buck pass; the buck stops here.

In a sense, the Christian Steward is an intersection between grace and human need.

God gives the initiative; we cooperate with it: we become the instruments of love, forgiveness and compassion.

During Lent, let us remember, true giving involves sacrifice; it is unselfish and ongoing.

—partially excerpted, Parish Publishing, LLC, Stewardship, March 2017

**Above all the grace and the gifts
that Christ gives to his beloved
is that of overcoming self .
—St. Francis of Assisi**

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.

TOWERS OF FAITH

Future Support and Legacy Planning Options

Towers of Faith is a movement that has arisen due to the visionary leadership and generosity of several of our Parishioners. We stress that this is not about the gift amount, but rather the love and thought behind the gift.

These individuals (*several anonymous*) have included STM in their estate planning. This helps to ensure their ongoing support and a legacy for our Parish. *Towers of Faith* is a valuable portion of our future support.



Examples of the various future planning vehicles are: Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Wills , Living Trust, Life Insurance, Stocks and Bonds, Real Estate, and STM Endowment with CCFSD.

Parishioners who have already included STM in their estate plans are *Towers of Faith* participants. If you are interested, please contact us. Your participation is most welcome and appreciated!

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

Do two or more members of your family know where to locate your Will, Living Trust and/or Health Directive?

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 for Memorial Garden (54) 12 available | \$5,000/each |
| Priests' Concelebration Vestments (4) 4 available | \$400/each |
| Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 705 available | \$300/each |
| Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 93 available | \$300/each |
| Altar Server Albs (15) 8 available | \$125/each |
| Pipe Organ —Our pipe organ is our “pipe dream”...but dream we must... donations of any amount toward the pipe organ will be accepted | \$850,000 |

12/29/16

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



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 January 4, we have netted \$67,702
from this program. Thank you donors!**



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

The Larger Church News

Job Opening at Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego—Residential Technician, full-time, evening shift (3:00-11:00pm), \$11.50 per hour. To apply, please forward your resume to resumes@ccdsd.org or fax to 619-232-3807.

Birth Choice Women's Spring Luncheon—Saturday, April 1, 11:30am, Green Dragon Tavern Museum and Restaurant, Carlsbad. Tickets \$40 each. For more information, visit <http://birthchoice.net/donate/events>.

Unbound Conference—Saturday, April 1, 8:30am-5:00pm, St. Stephen Catholic Church, Valley Center. Led by international speaker Neal Lozano with Heart of the Father Ministries. For more information, visit www.AbbaFatherInstitute.org.

Beginning Experience Weekend for Divorced, Widowed, and Separated Persons—May 5-7, Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside. Focuses on healing and moving beyond grief in a support and caring environment. For more information, contact Cathy Savel at 619-222-9093 or Rose Sheehan at 619-504-4410.

St. Francis Annual Women's Retreat: Let My Soul Glory in the Lord—May 5-7, Vina De Lestonnac, Temecula. Presenter is Fr. Ruben Arceo, SJ, pastor of St. Francis Church. For more information, contact Rae Arnold at 760-500-3201 or sonraetoo@gmail.com.

† † †

Sunday TV Mass for the Homebound—Every Sunday at 9:30am. XDTV Channel 49 (MyTV13) or www.heartofthenation.org.

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.

Franciscan School of Theology in Affiliation with the University of San Diego—For more information, go to www.fst.edu or contact 760-547-1800 x204

Hospice Volunteers Needed in Your Area—Kaiser Permanente Hospice & Palliative Care has many patients in North County who are facing life threatening illness and need volunteers to assist them. Volunteers offer a few hours of relief for caregivers, usually once a week, companionship and emotional support, and practical assistance such as errands. No “hands on” care is required. You will be blessed abundantly for giving your time and caring! Volunteers are assigned near the areas around their residence and are reimbursed for all mileage. For more information call Diane Hazard at 619-641-4669.

St. Francis Church News

525 W. Vista Way, Vista • 760-945-8000 • stfrancis-vista.org

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

- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,
- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.

For a video about the school, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/gwqu23u>

Parish Contacts

Updated 01/01/2017

Pastoral Council

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairperson | Lisa Attardo 760-940-1505 |
| Secretary | Marti Harper 760-724-1181 |
| 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..... | 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 |
| Liturgy | Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022 |
| Art & Environment | Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022 |
| Bereavement Ministry..... | Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131 |
| Eucharistic Adoration | Available 760-758-4100 x120 |
| 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 | 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..... | Available 760-758-4100 x120 |
| 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..... | Nancy Whiteside 858-750-8161 |
| | Lee Coccaro 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

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chairperson | Jody Cadieux 760-809-9761 |
| Secretary | Eric Acheff 760-224-6017 |
| Annual Catholic Appeal..... | Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102 |
| 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 | 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 |

Finance Council

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairperson | Ron Briseno 760-224-3105 |
| Secretary | Nancy Busse 760-519-7783 |
| Budget Review..... | Don Eppich 760-744-8705 |
| Financial Liaison | Doug D'Agrosa 760-941-6800 |
| Inventory..... | Irene Balli-Dumas 760-521-7157 |
| Personnel | Nina Woodard 760-717-1431 |
| Building & Maintenance..... | Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 |
| Parish Emergency Preparedness | Mario Cugini 760-726-2932 |
| Special Projects..... | Bill Ipsen 760-723-0402 |

Pastoral Staff

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

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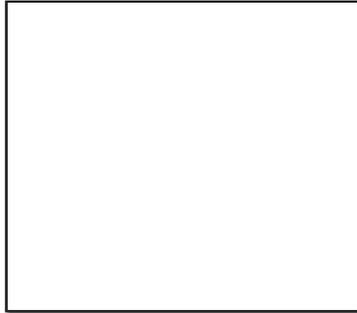



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Dr. Michael Maksim
Parishioner

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Our Syrian Refugee Family

You are invited to join fellow Parishioners in supporting this family.

A father, a mother, and five children fled Aleppo, Syria, in May 2014. They registered in Turkey as refugees in June 2015 and lived in a refugee camp until they arrived in the USA three weeks ago.

They went through an 18-month, almost daily, extreme vetting program by the U.S. Government and by Catholic Charities, their sponsoring agency. They are so happy and grateful to be here!

It is important for them to reside in El Cajon for better public transportation, job opportunities, emotional support from other middle-eastern refugees, and easy access to services provided by Catholic Charities, San Diego.

When we visited them, Fr. Mike introduced us and asked how we could help them.

The father responded: "You can give me a fish or teach me to be a fisherman. I would like you to teach me to be a fisherman!" He is an accountant but will take any work he can find while learning English and the American accounting system.

That being said, we soon became aware that the family needs many, many things. Because of previous generosity of some of our Parishioners, we had monies to purchase some immediate necessities: toiletries, food, housewares, cleaning supplies, and school supplies. (The children were not able to attend school for five years during the war and in the refugee camp.)

We will update you regularly on how the family is doing and what their ongoing needs might be. They are very excited to visit us and thank us in person!

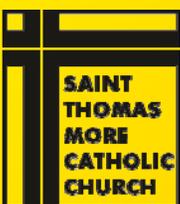
Please review the other side for specific items you can help provide.

Thank you!

—Lisa and Patrick Attardo
Sr. Maureen Brown, CSJ



I was a stranger and you welcomed me...



Ways You Can Help Our Syrian Family

- ◆ WalMart, Sears, or Best Buy gift cards from our Scrip Program for clothing, grocery, and small household items.
- ◆ Monetary donations for rent, utilities, internet service, etc. (you might consider a monthly donation)
- ◆ Computers (Windows-based) for their ESL (English as a Second Language) classes and school work
- ◆ Educational/teaching materials, maybe from home-schooling activities, and school supplies
- ◆ Larger items (you may just have these items in storage or ready to be replaced):
 - TV with stand
 - Refrigerator
 - Washer/dryer
 - Microwave
- ◆ Their greatest desire and dream is to have a van that would allow the father greater flexibility to find work and to transport his family of seven (and a booster seat for their youngest).
- ◆ For all large items, please text a photo to Lisa Attardo at 760-884-7863 with approximate dimensions so we can show the family and make sure it will fit in their small apartment.
- ◆ A hand-printed note (easier for them to read) welcoming them to our country and offering prayers of support!

If you would like to part of the steering committee or become involved more directly with the family, please contact Lisa Attardo. We will also be on the plaza after Mass this weekend and next!

Lisa Attardo: cell/text 760-884-7863 or lisaattardo@yahoo.com
Patrick Attardo: cell/text 760-884-7862
Sr. Maureen Brown: 760-758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org

WE/I WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

You may bring this form to our table, the Parish Office, or put it in the offertory collection.

Name(s): _____

Phone/Email: _____

We/I would like to make a monetary or gift card donation.

Description/amount: _____

We/I would like to donate small or large items.

Description: _____

We/I would like to be part of the steering committee.

Other comments/questions: _____

care of Retired Priests

When a diocesan priest is ordained, he makes a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the faithful in our diocese, typically serving 40 to 45 years in ministry. In return, the diocese makes a commitment to the priest to provide for his basic well-being during his lifetime, including retirement.



Everyone is aware of the need to appropriately provide for the spiritual, material, and medical needs during their senior years. Priests have the same concerns. They want to have a certain level of confidence that someone will attend to the nurturing of their faith, helping them find

an appropriate physical environment, and assist them when their bodies or minds decline with the passage of time. We play an important part in adding to their sense of security about their senior years.

The normal retirement age for a priest in our diocese is at age 75. Retirement costs including insurance, healthcare, prescription drugs, skilled nursing care, and housing and sustenance continue to escalate. At present, one-third of our diocesan priests are retired.

Our retired priests have a profound trust in the Lord and His Holy Mother; they have a profound trust in the gratitude and generosity of the people of the diocese. Our 2 retired bishops and 55 retired priests rely on the Lord and His people to sustain them in their senior years. As age and physical ability permit, they continue to witness the love of God. They continue to live a life of prayer and sacramental participation.

The Annual Catholic Appeal supports care of retired priests so that they can live in dignity, and free of anxiety about their means of support. This includes providing health and auto insurance, nursing care at Nazareth House San Diego if needed, supplementing their pension when necessary, and covering expenses for them to attend the annual convocation of priests.

"We are always priests with all our soul and with all our heart. Being an ambassador of Christ ... is a mission that penetrates our entire being."

— Pope Francis

Our Response as Stewards

REFLECT — On the many gifts you have received from God, including your financial blessings.

PRAY — About how God wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

RESPOND — By supporting the mission. You can give at your parish or online at www.giving.sdcatholic.org.

the Joy of Love



Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:7



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1 *All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved FUNdraiser. 4. Must present this flyer at the time of purchase.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS 2017

The St. Thomas More Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team would like to introduce the catechumens and candidates sent to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in San Diego on March 5.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion invites all the catechumens (the unbaptized), candidates (those who have received only Baptism), and the faithful into a time of intense preparation, by prayer and spiritual recollection, for the celebration and/or renewal of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

This step moves these members into the period of Purification and Enlightenment. The “enlightenment” is the experience of a personal encounter with Christ the Savior during the community’s Lenten retreat in prayer. With the faithful and the already baptized candidates, the Elect purify their minds and hearts as they each examine their conscience and do penance.



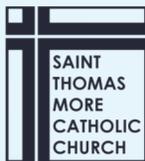
Elizabeth Keogh, Catechumen

It is my privilege to introduce Elizabeth to the St. Thomas More Faith Family. Elizabeth is a very strong but amazingly gentle and compassionate person. Ever since her beloved and beautiful sister passed away almost five years ago, she has been more determined than ever to fully enter into the Roman Catholic Church. She has always had a strong love and devotion to Our Lord and the Holy Family, but it has grown so much stronger since we began the journey with RCIA. Working with her through this journey has drawn me closer as well. Elizabeth will be a strong member of this family so I hope you will join me in welcoming her to St. Thomas More Family.
—Christopher Keogh, Sponsor



Kristin Jenkins, Catechumen

It is an absolute pleasure to introduce my good friend Kristin Jenkins to the Parish of St. Thomas More. Kristin is an amazing wife and mom who truly demonstrates what it means to be loyal, devoted, and selfless. I admire the way she has dedicated herself to learning about the Catholic faith for herself as well as for her children Bradley, Tyler, and Kayleigh. I know she will be a wonderful addition to our faith community and am privileged to have taken this journey with her. —Linh McHenry, Sponsor





Jamie Melsheimer, Catechumen

Community of St. Thomas More, I am so pleased to introduce to you Jamie Melsheimer. She is an amazing young woman whose love of family is of the utmost importance to her. She is eager to learn all she can about the fundamental teachings of Christ's Church and hungry to experience the wonders of the faith journey she is on. She easily shares thoughts and feelings with her family, co-workers and fellow RCIA participants. Jamie reads and studies all of the handouts and the many assigned passages in the Catechism. Her books show real use—highlighting, notes in the margins, and dog-eared pages. She is such an inspiration to me and one who has rekindled my own journey of love of Jesus and commitment to his Church. She is compassionate, empathetic, and most importantly funny. (The humor got us in trouble for laughing and talking at Mass.) I know all of you who come to meet her will love her as much as I do. —*Sherryl Gollhofer, Sponsor*



Ann Yorke, Catechumen

It is a great honor to introduce Ann Yorke to the St. Thomas More Parish Community. Ann has diligently studied the RCIA lessons with a determination to understand Catholic teachings. She doesn't hesitate to ask questions about the doctrines of our Roman Catholic Church which has been enlightening for all attendees. Ann has great faith in Jesus Christ and that continues to grow.

The Holy Spirit has directed Ann on this spiritual journey of peace, joy, and love. She and I have shared tears and laughter and learned much about each other and our faith in these many months. It has been a gift and a privilege to share this beautiful experience with her.

I believe there are no accidents in this life. It's how we act and react to events that make us grow. Ann is definitely ready to receive the sacraments of the Holy Catholic Church at our Easter Vigil. Please welcome her to our Parish community. —*Sue Lyon, Sponsor*

Oscar Toledo, Catechumen

It is my pleasure to introduce Oscar Toledo to the community at St. Thomas More. Oscar shares a warm heart along with a willingness to explore his faith that is contagious. He can add a touch of humor to even the most serious of discussion material, he brings great compassion, and he has even been able to provide able counsel to his sponsor regarding family life. It is a pleasure to join Oscar at RCIA each week as we grow in faith and friendship in preparation for his initiation into the Catholic Church. I am honored to have this opportunity to walk with him through this process and be his sponsor. Our faith community here at St. Thomas More will be greatly enriched as we welcome Oscar and our other Catechumens and Candidates during the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil. —*Kelly Parsons, Sponsor*



John Badeaux, Candidate

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to John Badeaux. John was baptized and has been drawn to the Catholic Church his entire life. Meeting life's challenges head on, John always put his family (wife Kathleen and two kids) first and his work as a contractor a close second in order to ensure his children could have a Catholic education and upbringing. After planting these seeds early in his marriage and family life and having witnessed his hard work bearing fruit, he has now reached the point where he wants to be fully initiated into the Church.

John has an inquisitive mind and demonstrates an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures and Church history. His quest for the truth has inspired me and helped me to grow in my own faith. I feel honored and privileged to be his sponsor and to welcome him into the St Thomas More Parish community. —*Eddie Murphy, Sponsor*



Kathleen Badeaux, Candidate

It is my great privilege to introduce Kathleen Badeaux to the faith community of St. Thomas More. Early in her life, Kathleen had received the light of Christ through Baptism. This is evident by her generous and caring heart, her gentleness, and her joyful spirit. She sees the good in everything! If I could use only one word to describe Kathleen, it would be "delightful."

She and her husband, John (who is in the RCIA process along with her), are high-school sweethearts and have been married for almost 30 years. They raised their two children (now adults) in the Catholic faith and have decided that now is the time to complete their own initiation into the Catholic Church.

Kathleen has an amazing depth to her spirituality already and has shared experiencing the presence of God and the Holy Spirit throughout her life. Now she is eager to develop and nurture a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For this reason she is looking forward with great anticipation to receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Personally, I am just as excited to see her receive Jesus in the fullest sense—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity! I am humbled and filled with gratitude to God for the blessing in my own life of walking beside Kathleen on her RCIA journey. —*Sheila Murphy, Sponsor*





Dana Hottell, Candidate

I am pleased to welcome Dana Hottell to our St Thomas More family. Dana has a passion for helping others and caring for the poor, which was her main draw to the Catholic Church. Dana is excited to become fully a part of our Catholic faith so she can ensure that her future family has a strong upbringing in the Church. God has called Dana to utilize her passions and make a difference in our community and St Thomas More Church is blest to have her. She has also inspired me to think about how I can help others, and I'm very blest to be her sponsor. —*Laura Hawkins, Sponsor*

Amy Shaffer, Candidate

I am honored to introduce Amy Shaffer to the St. Thomas More Community. She is a dedicated wife and mother. I am enjoying seeing her grow throughout this Journey of Faith/ Journey of Life. I am excited to be her sponsor and to call her my friend. —*Pina Shaw, Sponsor*



Jaret Shaffer, Candidate

I am happy to introduce Jaret Shaffer as he continues his journey of Christian faith. Jaret is a husband and father of two young sons. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know him and his lovely wife Amy during the RCIA process. I feel a unique closeness to him as we both share a deep love of God's outdoor creation, spending time in the mountains and ocean. I am excited for him and look forward to him becoming a full member in the church at the Easter Vigil. —*Lance Shaw, Sponsor*

