

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 AdorationEvery 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





St. Thomas More: A Parish For All Seasons!

Watch your mail for information on our new Seasons Capital Campaign starting January 1.

First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

Pastor's Column

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

Advent—Search for Light

The Church celebrates the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist in June, around the time of the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. From John's feast onward, days become shorter and light decreases. Now, during Advent, we approach the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year, which includes nature's promise of more light to follow.

John knew he must decrease so that Christ may increase. We can take his analogy into our hearts. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we can try to understand how we can decrease so that Christ may increase in our hearts and in the world.

Thanksgiving rituals of family, food, and friends prepared us for the coming weeks of increasing darkness. The outside world is already in Christmas frenzy, urging us to get out there and shop, shop, shop. But the externals of power and possessions do not satisfy the longing.

No matter how much we accumulate, there is something else we need. As God's creations, we can only find security in God's care. Too many times we forget that, and waste time wandering around in the dark looking for substitutes.

—Phyllis Zagano "Advent Day by Day—Search for Light" *Catholic Update*

As we begin this Advent, as we wait for the Return of the Lord, and as we prepare to celebrate his First Coming at Christmas, may we take time to "step back a bit" and look in wonder and awe at all that we are and all that we have. May we look at ourselves with a new set of eyes, appreciative of the gifts of life, love, and family.

Instead of looking for "new," "bigger," and "better," may we make a conscious effort to celebrate anew what we already are and what we already have.

With a sense of simplicity, may we, in Faith and Trust, once again grab hold of our many gifts, celebrate them and share them.

(continued on page 2)

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)

"The Lord is Coming!" How are we waiting for His Return? Do we continue to deaden our senses with "new," "bigger," and "better," or are we awakening to the present moment? Are we becoming more appreciative of the miracles of life, love, and family in our midst?

Will this Advent be "frenzy" or "quiet"? Will this Advent bring us closer to the Lord and to one another? Or will it be a time to accumulate more things—"new," "bigger," and "better"?

Let's make this a good Advent!



Retirement Fund for Religious

The month of December has been designated for the Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, The envelopes are attached to the bulletin this weekend and may be returned any time this month. Thank you!

Votive Candles at Our Marian Shrine

Our candles for the month of December are sponsored by Bob and Anne Fallone. Our candles for the month of January will be sponsored by Steve and Marilyn Lilly.

The cost of sponsoring the candles for a month is \$200. If you would like to sponsor a month, either by yourself or with someone else, please check with Henny in the Parish Office.

The next available month is of April 2018.

Your support of this effort is greatly appreciated!

Considering Becoming Catholic?

Are you searching for

- A deeper relationship with God?
- A sense of belonging in a faith community?
- A greater fulfillment of your mission in life?

"Inquiry" is the first step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process: a ministry that welcomes those who would like to explore whether full membership in the Catholic Church through Baptism or a Profession of Faith (if validly baptized in another Christian tradition), Confirmation, and Eucharist is God's call in your life.

For details, contact Kathleen Bell, RCIA Coordinator, at 760-809-6526 or 80bell80@gmail.com.

STM Scrip News

Buy Scrip gift cards after Masses on the weekend on the plaza, or Monday-Friday in the Parish Office, and a percentage of each card is returned to the Parish. You may also purchase Scrip online—visit www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm for more info.

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. Do you shop at other online locations? Try Giving Assistant 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.

Welcome New Parishioners Patricia Johnson & Family

Flower Donations

The Altar Flowers for last weekend were given by Tam & Hahn Tran in honor of their son Jonathan's first birthday.



In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frank Thompson, who died November 2. His Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 10, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. He is a former Parishioner who had been living in Texas. Please keep his family in your prayers. Please also see below.

Jerry Peralta, who died November 17. His Vigil Service will be on Thursday, December 14, at 4:30pm at St. Thomas More. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 15, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep his family in your prayers.

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

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes			
Date	Time	Parish	
Mon, Dec. 4	7:00pm	St. John, Encinitas	
Wed, Dec. 6	7:00pm	St. Patrick, Carlsbad	
Sun, Dec. 10	4:00pm	St. Thomas More, Oceanside	
Wed, Dec. 13	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad	
Thu, Dec. 14	7:00pm	Nativity, Fairbanks Ranch	
Fri, Dec. 15	1:00pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside	
Fri, Dec. 15	6:30pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside	
Sat, Dec 16	8:00am	Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside	
Mon, Dec. 18	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos (Spanish)	
Tue, Dec. 19	6:30pm	St. Francis, Vista	
Wed, Dec. 20	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos (English)	
Thu, Dec. 21	10:30am	St. Peter, Fallbrook	
Thu, Dec. 21	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook	

Men's Fellowship Update

iHunger continues on Saturday mornings at 6:45am with an engaging program called Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be by Fr. Larry Richards. The morning starts with breakfast in the Parish Center Lower Level. We have breakfast off-site on the first weekend of each month all year round. We hope you can join us! No registration necessary!

To stay informed of what's going on with iHunger via text messages, text iHunger to 84576 or email Deacon John at johnf@stmoside.org to have your email added to the iHunger distribution group.

iThirst: Are you thirsty for some occasional fellowship over a beer at a local micro-brewery with some other great men from the Parish? If so text iThirst to 84576 to stay connected with what's going on.

Isaiah Ornelas &

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 3 (2) First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Monday, December 4 (686) John of Damascus, priest, religious, doctor 2 Timothy 1:13-14;2:1-3 Psalm 19:8-11 Matthew 25:14-30 Tuesday, December 5 (176) Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Luke 10:21-24 Wednesday, December 6 (687) Nicholas, bishop

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 40:2,4,7-11 Luke 10:1-9

Thursday, December 7 (688) Ambrose, bishop, doctor Ephesians 3:8-12 Psalm 89:2-5,21-22,25,27

John 10:11-16 Friday, December 8 (689)

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98:1-4 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9 (180) Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Psalm 147:1-6 Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8 Sunday, December 10 (5) Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 4-0:1-5,9-11

Psalm 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2, 5:00pm Armida Midge Hanson &

Sunday, December 3, 8:30am Bill Nelson

Sunday, December 3, 10:30am Lisa Magno Marino &

Monday, December 4, 8:15am Roxanne Shaffer & John Lannan

Tuesday, December 5, 8:15am Yvonne Lannan &

Wednesday, December 6, 8:15am Bill Nelson

Thursday, December 7, 8:15am Jennie Stasio &

Friday, December 8, 8:15am Richard Beekman &

Friday, December 8, 7:00pm Mike Avub &

Saturday, December 9, 5:00pm Timothy Black &

Sunday, December 10, 8:30am Jack Gillen &

Sunday, December 10, 10:30am Robert Rataiczak P

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

Charlene Hammonds Dwayne Hammonds

The Harker Family

Changa Aguilera Ernie Aichele Mary Alexander Carrie Autrey Joshua Avery Addison Abigail Aviña Bob Baker Rosemary Ballard Jose Luis Barbosa Patricia Barbour Francie Barron Fr. Karl Bauer Colleen Bechtold Clarice Bednarz Taylor Bell John Bennici Regina Bentz Lisa Berg Roseanne Berg David Blecki Barry Botsford Billy Botsford Lynda Brady Tawnya Brady Zane Breier Janet Brown Anita Buerger Amelia Buono Roger & Pat Burkardt Lynn Butcher Lynn Butcher Shelby Campbell Breanne Campos Aria Cappeluti Nanette Carey Jorge Cartajena Donald Cashmore Anne Caywood Ravy Chea Della Clarke The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Anne Cline
James Coleman
Maria Colfer
Addie Colgan
Clara Collins
Judy Colson
Karen Connell Karen Connell Geoff Coolidge Sandra Cracchiolo Steven Cresencia Lené Crowe Karen Flaharty Daley Beverly de Gelder Velia Deal & Family Paul Del Vecchio
Hugo Delgado, Jr.
Cassandra D'Ercole
Cecilia DeSimone
Lydia deVillenueve
The Dillon Family Judith & Joe DiMatteo Elizabeth Doherty's Aunt Jackie Art & Dave Dossman Steven Douglas Jerome Elbacha Arthur Eral
Carolyn Erickson Ey
Victoria Lopez Fenton
The Fiore Family
Fr. James Flanagan Mary Fleming Ernie Follis Eugene Franciscus The Fredette Family The Greg French Family Brian Frink Jim Gallagher The Joe Garcia Family Kathy Gardner Joan Gay Alyssa Gerhard Dan Gilman
Betty Golden Brown &
the Golden Family Wendy Gonzales' Dad Rick Gonzalez Matthew Gora Lou Gordon George & Liz Gritt Luke Guenst

Susan Hallahan

Tomo Hamasaki

Trinity Coles
Laura Paciorek Gloor
Rosalie Ruzicka Paite Dorothy Harrison & Michelle Harrison & Family Barbara Hatem Ethan Palm Cynthia Pearson Vanessa Haves Kaili Pearson LaNay Hazzard Salina Pearson Matthew Henry & Family The Peralta Family Merri Phelps Sunshine Hernandez & Roxanne Pietila Family Lilian Hills Helen Pingtella Delilah Plasterer Georgia Ann Hodina Lisa Hodges Samara Hook Perry Postulka The Joe Prokop Family Bernie Ptak Susan Hori Barbara Ramm Courtney Jackman Fr. Mike Ratajczak Jenni Richard Katherine Jacobs Kristin Jacobson Jacqueline Johnson Sue Johnston
The Judy Mitchell
Family
Laura Kater
Dottie Kearney
Connor Kerzie Connor Kerzie
Peggy Kiernan
Debbie Kinney
Cathy Kleinschmidt
Mark Kneisel
Dewey Kolbo
Tony Korwin &
Kathleen Aviña Kathleen Aviña Lorene Kundert Lillian Lachance The Lamelin Family Ashley LaMothe & Family Pauline Lapre's sister Justine Brandon LeBlanc Susan Lee Jake Lefferdink Aleah Leon JoAnne Lesser Stella Leué Fr. Rich Lewandowski Ashley Load Cassandra & Lauren Loretto The Maldonado Family The Maldonado Trejo Family Larry Manquero Paige Mansell Gloria Maupin Colleen McCall
Virginia McConnell
Paige McCoy
Gina McDermott Jerry McEniry Ann McGeary The McGinley Family Bob McWilliams Joyce Meehan Kalei Mendiola Kalei Mendiola Rita Mikridge Steven Sr., Stevie, & Noah Miller Tom Miller Harold Miller, Jr. Phyllis Minaya June Mitchell Camille Mitkevich Maria Molina June Montgomery Nancy Moore Ryan Moquin Elizabeth Muehlbacher Conrad Murphy
Hope Murphy
Michele Murphy
Phyllis Murphy
Clay Murray
Margie Myers Andrew Philip Nacional Angela Nacional Melanie Nacional Nida Navarro Richard Obsitnik Gillian Ochoa Kare O'Dell

Evelyn Richards Rita Ritchie Joel Rivera Ralda Rizke Lily Robinson Mateo Rodriguez Chuck & Maria Rogers Paul Roofener Brigit Rossi Roberta Rossi Dick & Pauline Rossmaessler The Russo Family Rachel Sainc Cindy Sanelli Lori Sanna Rose Mary Saputo Calixto Pápa Sarmiento Lani Schiller Linda Schmidt Joan Shea Teresa Sheehey Elizabeth Shirzad Ellen Simonson Barb Slabaugh Barb Slabaugh
Cinda Smits
Nick Soltau
Steve Soule
Gilda Spiegl
Darek, Vanessa, &
Elba Spizewski
Don St. Pierre Pon St. Pierre
Patricia St. Pierre
Joy Stanton
Sybil Staples
Mike Sterling
Betty Stewart
Laura Bernard Stover,
MD
Patrick Pierre
MD
Patrick Pierre
MD
Patrick Pierre
Patric Pete Sullivan Pete Sullivan
Pat Swanton
Laura Thiele
Tommy & Ginger
Thompson The Thompson Family Sarah Tillinghast William Tompson Stephen Toth, Jr. & Family Olivia Trejo The Trejo/Beltran Family The Trejo/Maldonado/ Uribe Family Wayne Twilliger Bob Ulrich Martin Vertson Lucy Viramontes Vanessa Vitiello Wilson Wanner Wilson Wanner Kevin Watson-Graff Jim Watters Jerry Wechsler Elaine Weiler Mona Weir Lee Welch Rylee West Linda Willingham Gerri Wilmott & Family Family John Woodard The Xavier Family Patricia Zavala Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

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

Dec 3	Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
Dec 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary— Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm
Dec 10	Coastal Roots Farm Tour
Dec 10	Advent Reconciliation Service at 4:00pm
Dec 11	Women's Guild Luncheon
Dec 15	Parent Shopping Night
Dec 16	Cookie Exchange Party
Dec 19	Spirited Seniors Winter
	Luncheon
Dec 24	The Ark Nursery closed
Dec 24	Christmas Eve—
	Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm,
	and 10:00pm
	Caroling at 9:30pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day—
	Mass at 9:30am
Dec 31	The Ark Nursery closed
Dec 31	Mary, Mother of God—
	Mass at 5:00pm
2018	
Jan 1	Mary, Mother of God—
	Mass at 9:30am
Jan 7	12th Night Choir Festival
Jan 28	Greater San Diego Coterie
	presents Rhapsody in Blue

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 1st Lt. Eric Galamay MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC Sgt. Alex Garcia Adolfo Granados, MD, US Navy PFC Samuel Haro, US Army Cpl Caleb Lemons, USMC PFC Cody Madere Jordan Millikan 1st Lt. Jennifer Mozzetta Jeremiah Gabriel Nelson, USAF Thomas Kevin Nelson, ÚS Navy Fireman Griffin Joseph Ochoa, US Navy Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army Nicole Rieger CTR2, US Navy Col. Conrad Salinas, MD Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC MGY SGT Paul Weisinger

Social Ministries & Outreach

Care for Creation Team Update

On Sunday, December 10, St Thomas More's Care for Creation Team will be going to Coastal Roots Farm, a local community farm that integrates biblical insights, traditional Jewish spirituality, and agricultural practices. Join us as we learn about how faith, food, agriculture, and the Earth intersect! To RSVP or for more information, please contact Eric van Maarth at <code>ericv@stmoside.org</code>.

Update on the Almustafas, Our Syrian Refugee Family

During this thanksgiving time, we thank God that the Almustafas are doing well in their new country! They are deeply grateful to us for our ongoing support emotionally, spiritually and financially. They were very touched that we included their son, Mohammad, in our All Souls Day Mass. We sent his candle and a copy of the worship aid to them with an explanation of what All Souls Day means to us.

They are especially grateful that, due to the generosity of our Parishioners, the cost of the airline tickets for them to travel to America were paid in full this past month. We continue to provide them with gift cards each month. Our goal was to help them become financially independent in one year. With their hard work and our help, that goal will be met!

The family is very busy! The younger children, Limar and Mays, are in grammar school and doing well. The older girls, Ahlam and Esraa, are working for Urban Core and taking college classes. Mom, Douha, is also taking classes. Dad, Husam, continues to study English with the tutor we are providing, taking odd jobs, and chauffeuring his family! Our goal continues to be to help him find an accounting position as soon as he is able to do so. For more information, contact Lisa and Patrick Attardo at lisaattardo@yahoo.com

Ignite! Updates Corner

Ignite Tomorrow: Youth Group tomorrow from 6:30-8:30pm! Stop on by for homemade dinner, games, and fellowship. We're going to be getting into the Christmas spirit by writing Christmas cards to deployed troops and watching a Christmas movie!

Ignite Recap: Two weeks ago we reflected on what we are grateful for in our lives. Feel free to come and check out the

Thankful Tree we made together on the lower level of the Parish Center! We also made two pies together for Brother Benno's!

This past week, we brainstormed and came up with an exciting service project for us to work on together for the rest of the year! Stay on the lookout for updates: we are are going to be involving everyone in the Parish!





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*.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter—starts with the love you have for your spouse and helps you build, expand, and deepen that relationship. We invite all married couples to sign up for one of our upcoming weekends: January 26-28 and March 9-11. The weekend starts at 8:00pm on Friday and ends at 4:00pm on Sunday. Your meals and lodging are provided. There is a \$75 fee and a voluntary donation requested at the end of the weekend. Sign up today at www.wwme-sandiego.org

For more information, visit *www.sdcatholic.org* Ministries/ Marriage and Family Life or call Caleb and Sheila McKinley at 858-245-1761.

STM Mental Health Ministry Network

STM is a member of the San Diego Diocesan Mental Health Ministry Network (MHMN) 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 or MHMN@stmoside.org.

Anyone seeking the service of a Licensed Mental Health Professional affiliated with the San Diego Diocesan Mental Health Ministry Network can visit: *eTherapyFinder.com/osm*. Then, click on "Find Affiliated Therapists."

Therapists interested in affiliating with the San Diego diocesan Mental Health Ministry Network may visit *eTherapyFinder.com* and click on "CLINICIANS CLICK HERE" to register for a free profile. Once the profile has been acknowledged by *eTherapyFinder.com* (usually within one or two business days) visit *eTherapyFinder.com/osm* to view and accept the diocesan pledge.

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

This coming weekend, the generous donations you have given to our annual clothing drive will be distributed to the needy served by St. Bonaventure Indian Mission. All the goods that you have sent will be given to the needy Navajo without cost. Your generosity is truly living up to one of the commands of our Lord...to clothe the naked.

Attention Christmas Angels!

All Angel and Stocking ornament gifts are due this weekend. If you still have yours, please drop it off in the Parish Office on Monday. Catholic Charities will be picking the items up this week. Camp Pendleton family gifts are due next weekend, December 9-10. Please be sure to keep any gift cards in a separate envelope with the family number indicated. Thank you for your generous donations to support this Ministry. Questions? Contact Lisa Seufert at 760-716-0977 or *leprechaun81@sbcglobal.net*..

Parish Events

Women's Guild News

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, which symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
—www.catholiccompany.com

By now you have received the Women's Guild annual Christmas Raffle tickets in the mail. If you haven't done so yet, please send them in with your donation. Make sure your name and phone number are on EACH stub (address labels trimmed to fit work wonders and save time!). Drop the envelope in the collection basket at Mass, in the Parish office, or mail them. The drawing for the \$500, \$300, and \$200 prizes takes place after the 10:30am Mass Sunday, December 17.

Our next luncheon meeting is Monday, December 11, when we celebrate with a delicious Advent luncheon and seasonal music to get us in the mood for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Kathy Santy, our pianist at STM, and Judy Smith, VP of Women's Guild programs, on the flute, will play beautiful music for us at the luncheon. Always a festive event for Women's Guild, be sure to set the date on your calendar and consider inviting a guest or two. Please bring a nonperishable item or canned food to donate to the STM shopping cart, any extra teaspoons that you may have to donate to the luncheon supplies, and remember your RSVP Remington 760-805-6935 with **Patty** at remingpatty@gmail.com.

Anna Marie Martinet, Corresponding Secretary, requests any extra cards that you can donate. Just bring them to the December meeting or place in box 35.

Our next big fundraiser is the Fashion Show on Saturday, February 17, at Shadowridge Golf Club. Sondra Parks is the chairperson for this event and will be talking to you at the December meeting about what we all need to do to start working on this event. I know we all have Advent and Christmas on our minds, but as all of you know, time flies, and it will be February before we know it!

Looking forward to a peaceful Advent Season!

—Trish Feeley, St. Thomas More Women's Guild President

Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon

Join us Tuesday, December 19—\$20 for members and \$22 for non-members, this event will be catered by Bobby's Hideaway Café and is a perfect opportunity for friends to share a meal and a glass of wine during Advent, just before Christmas. The doors will open at 11:30am and there will be door prizes. 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 Spirted Seniors" in an envelope marked "STM Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon." You may place your envelope in the Offertory basket or direct it to Box 12 in the Parish Office. Space is limited, the deadline is noon on Monday December 11. Questions, please call Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-509-4545 or jandmday@cox.net.

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!

Coming Up in December...

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 16 \$20 each (\$10 tax deductible)



Sign up online at stmoside.org or on the Plaza after Masses

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

Jesus, Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe Mosaic Update

Three of the 54 panels of the mosaic are still available for sponsorship at \$5,000/panel. Once all of the panels have been sponsored, we will be able to begin the restoration of the mosaic

and its placement outdoors in our Memorial Garden.

Please contact Chris Smith for details: 760-758-4100 x120 or *chriss@stmoside.org* to sponsor a panel.



Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

Come as a guest to our Annual Christmas Party December 17, Sunday afternoon, at the El Camino Country Club. The event includes dinner, entertainment, and the Billy Harper Dance Band for \$33. Must reserve before December 5. Check our website www.cwwnc.com or the bulletin board in the Parish Center Lower Level for our calendar of events each month. RSVPs are required. For more information, call Carol at 760-726-0533.

Advent Candles and Calendars

Advent is here! Ready the way of the Lord! Remember to pick up your candle/calendar orders!



Brother Benno's

This Thanksgiving, Brother Benno's served a Thanksgiving feast to almost 300 of the poor and homeless. No Thanksgiving meal is complete without dessert...which you most generously provided with your apple and pumpkin pies. They were much appreciated.

Liturgy & Music Worship God

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



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"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Mark 13:37

Upcoming Music

¥

DECEMBER 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am

Cantor | Assembly

7:00pm

Cappella Choir

¥

DECEMBER 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

X

5:00pm

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am

Tower Bells

10:30am

Praise Team

DO IT YOURSELF WATCHING

"Watch, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

We hear a lot about the "Do It Yourself Movement" or DIY these days. People make their own yogurt or grow their own herbs. It may have always been popular, but there is something about the high-tech world in which most of us live that makes us want to make a candle or bake a cake or knit a blanket. We want high touch in a world of high tech.

Advent (which begins tis Sunday) is a season that brings out the DIY in the most take-out type of person or family. We may not bake a single cookie all year, but on the approach to Advent there we are trying to find our Christmas cookie cutters. Many of us still can't give up on the little windows

that open on Advent calendar. We may also live under the pressure of a home-made gift, while also finally tossing the pickles some one made for us two years ago.

My church, the United Church of Christ, puts out a daily devotional that is read by 34,000. This year's theme is "Watch"; last year's theme was "Hark." We try in these devotionals—or consecrations for the day—to DIY a spiritual practice. (See more at: www.ucc.org/daily_devotional) Advent may be the best season for individual practice or daily devotionals that there is.

I think of the newly popular 30 days approach to personal change. The advice in this mini movement is to change one thing during the period of 30 or 40 days, for example, losing weight or lifting weights or calling our mother. We adopt one keystone practice, like journaling or walking in the morning, and other things become clear. The DIY theory of personal change gives us a short, focused time to be different. The season of Advent invites and welcomes unique spiritual observances as well.

A suggested practice this season could be to reinterpret the word watch. I like to ask people: "What are you looking forward to?" Put in a different way, that means: "What are you watching for?"

To watch is to actively see. What if we began each day in Advent watching for something good to happen? Not the "see something, say something" self-defending observation which most of our public training suggests but a gradual opening to the new, the next, the good. What if we put ourselves on the look-out for something good each day?

Can we become ready for something new and beautiful—something that is not just wrapped in gift paper? It is something more and longer and larger, like the way you feel when you look proudly at all the Christmas cookies you made: "I did that. I can do it. I know how to do that."

You might smile when the radio or the priest or both start telling you the "true meaning of Christmas." Instead of feeling strangely judged, you feel strangely happy.

We don't look or watch for the baby to placate or please the Divine but instead to prepare ourselves to live in the not-knowing. We're not trying to be especially good during Advent but to be especially watchful.

We can be on the watch for little notes from God, or from people who are doing what God wants them to do. We can scour the marketplace to see what God is up to there. We can watch out for the good.

Jesus' words proclaimed during this season are both ominous and inviting: "Watch for the day is coming: you don't know the day or the hour." Ever attentive, we might get ready for something really good—good enough to frighten you and comfort you at the same time.

Not every thing that happens is going to be scary. And even if some scary things happen, we still need to keep our eye out for the good.

Advent is like an alarm clock, but one on which you won't want to push the snooze button. You find yourself strangely engaged in Advent.

We almost always live in the great unknowing neither the day nor the hour. We can't please God by our good deeds or even our observances, whether they go 30 days in self-improvement or 40 days "adventing." Theologian Kathryn Tanner says our debt to God is "unpayable." We might watch all season and not even get a glimpse. Then again, we might get a glimpse and that would be invaluable.

In Advent we know that we don't know. Like well-educated people everywhere, we realize the limits of our predictions. We are on the look-out—watching for something wonderful.

And, it means watching for the child who is to come.

Faith Formation

each and Live the Gospel Tilly Rudolph Youth Advocate 760-758-4100 x161: tillvr@stmoside.org

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

Family Faith Formation

Our Next REACH Sunday is December 3

Make faith an important part of your whole family's life! Call the Faith Formation office today to register your child. Classes for children ages three through high school are available. Come join the fun! debbief@stmoside.org.

First Reconciliation|Eucharist News Advent Communal Reconciliation Service

Children who have been preparing to make their Sacrament of Reconciliation are asked to attend the Advent Communal Penance Service on Sunday, December 10, at 4:00pm. Parents, please have your child to the church no later than 3:45pm. The children will be sitting as a class for the service. The next Parent Meeting for children receiving their First Communion will be on Sunday, January 21, at 12:30pm.

Confirmation News

All Year 1 and Year 2 families are asked to attend the next scheduled M3 event on Saturday, March 10, beginning with 5:00pm Mass, potluck, and message to fulfill Confirmation requirements.

REACH Children's Christmas Choir



St. Thomas More Presents REACH Children's Choir

All children currently enrolled in REACH and EDGE are invited to participate in the Christmas Children's Choir. Practices will be held during the next two sessions of REACH and EDGE and one additional practice to be held in the Church on Wednesday, December 20, at 6:00pm. Children who participate in the choir are asked to attend the 4:00pm Mass and sit with their family on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. Contact Tilly Rudolph at tillyr@stmoside.org for more information.

Parent's Shopping Night Out



Order SCRIP before you shop!

Looking for an evening to get all your Christmas shopping done without the kids? STM IGNITE teens are here to help! We will offer babysitting on Friday, December 15, 6:00-9:00pm, on the Parish Center Lower Level for a reasonable fee. All proceeds go to support Youth Ministry. Watch for more details!

St. Thomas More ARK News



The **ARK**, is now open during the 10:30am Mass on Sundays! For more info on volunteering in the ARK or purchasing your ARK card for just \$3 a visit, please contact Lia at liak@stmoside.org. All children ages 0-5 welcome!

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study News

Convinced Life Is Too Busy for a Bible Study?

- Watch video sessions when you want to—from your own home—from anywhere you have Internet access
- Same cost—same workbook—same great video series!
- Contact Faith Formation to find out how to register for a study today!



Morning/Evening Adult Bible Studies



Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance will begin Wednesday, January 17, 9:00-11:00am on the Parish Center Upper Level. Contact Patt Goeltz at pattg@stmoside.org for more information and to register. Please register by December 13 to receive your workbook in time for the first session. Cost is \$25 for 8 weeks.

ACTS: The Spread of the Kingdom meets Thursday evenings 7:00-9:00pm on the Parish Center Lower Level. Contact Faith Formation office at debbief@stmoside.org for more information and to register.



Young Adult Bible Study



Young Adults in your twenties—join us for Catholicism: Journey to the Heart of Faith with Bishop Robert Barron two Sundays a month, 7:00-8:30pm. Contact Rory at *roryg@stmoside* and text **young-adult** to **84576** to receive updates about the classes and other Young Adult events.

Youth Ministry



Teens, are you looking for additional ways to complete service hours? Ask Tilly how!

- Tommy's Café
- Parents Shopping & Date Night Out
- M3 & Family Fun Night Set Up
- Christmas Angel Ministry
- K of C Christmas Party Event
- Bother Benno's Saturday Food Line

High School All teens grades 9-12

FOOD, FUN & FRIENDS

Welcome!

IGNITE High School Youth Group meets on Monday evenings on the Parish Center Lower Level 6:30-8:30pm (dinner served)



Stewardship & Development Serve God's People

Check Next Week for Collection Information Thank You!



Did You Receive a Packet of Envelopes?

Fr. Mike would like us all to use our envelopes as a sign of stewardship. If you use auto debit or credit card, just check that box on the envelope and drop it in the offertory collection. If you donate once a month, note that on your envelope and drop it in the offertory collection. Thank you!

Want to Donate Online?

Our website has an online giving option! Go www.stmoside.org, Donations, then Electronic Offerings.

Got Deductions? 2017 YEAR-END CHECKLIST



- BE SURE TO COMPLETE all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return. Advance planning with the Parish Office is essential, since the Parish Office will be closed after Friday, December 22, at 4:00pm and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.
- Donations received at the Saturday, December 30, Vigil Mass and Sunday, December 31, Masses will be counted toward the 2017 tax year.
- Envelopes POSTMARKED by Sunday, December 31, will be counted toward the 2017 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. (Tithing families, know that your tithe covers your ACA contribution.)
- Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.
- Stock Donations can be made at: www.sdcatholic.org, Giving, Stock Donations. Legal Name/Parish Name: Pastor of Saint Thomas More Catholic Parish, Tax ID# 27-3936812.

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

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

"St. Thomas More: A Parish For All Seasons!" In God, we live and move and have our being! -Acts 17:28



A Christian Stewardship Prayer for December

Gracious Lord, Let your goodness reveal itself to us, that we, made in your image, may conform ourselves to it.

We cannot imagine your majesty, power and wonder on our own; nor is it fitting for us to try.

But your kindness and mercy reach from the heavens. through the clouds, to the earth below to show us the fruits of your Incarnation.

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of your eternal love.

Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and soften our hearts with your tender voice so that we might respond as humble stewards of your active presence in the world.

We pray this through Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

—Adapted from a prayer by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux , ICSC Catholic Stewardship e-Bulletin, December 2017 (with permission)

In the words of the Magnificat, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: "My soul magnifies the Lord."

(Luke 1:46)

Memorial Item Donations Available

Jesus, Divine Redeemer and
Master of the Universe Mosaic Panels
for Memorial Garden
(54) 3 available

\$5,000/each

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

Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 692 available \$300/each

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

Altar Server Albs \$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

11/15/17

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 September 29, we have netted \$71,922 from this program. Thank you donors!

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

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.

The Larger Church News

Centering Prayer and the 11th Step—Saturday, December 9, 10:00am-5:00pm, St. Brigid Parish, 4735 Cass St., Pacific Beach. If you are in a 12-Step Program and are interested in deepening your practice of the 11th step, centering prayer is a simple, easy to learn, silent prayer. To register for this event contact Kdowns2@san.rr.com. There is no cost to this event.

Lessons and Carols Celebration—Saturday, December 9, 7:30pm or Sunday, December 10, 2:00pm, Founders Chapel, University of San Diego. A reflection on the birth of Jesus through scripture, music, and carols. For more information, contact *cctc@sandiego.edu*.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Married Couples—A program to help struggling marriages regain their health. For more information about upcoming weekends for couples, contact 951-259-9474 or visit *HelpOurMarriage.com*.

Support Group for Separated and Divorced—Sundays at 9:15am, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Parish Center, lower lot, Carlsbad. For more information, contact Jan Nadler, Ph.D. at *jnadlerphd@gmail.com* or 750-814-8604.

Pilgrimage to Italy—April 3-12, 2018, with Patrick Coffin, Catholic radio host. For more information, visit www.patrickcoffin.media/italy.

Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul—April 25-May 5, 2018, with Fr. Ron Kelso. Brochures available in the Parish Office.

St. Francis Women's Retreat—October 5-7, 2018, Vina de Lestonnac, Temecula. Space is limited—register now! For more information, contact Pat Swanson at 760-758-7008 or Rae Arnold at *sonraetoo@gmail.com*.



The Vatican—w2.vatican.va.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—usccb.org.

Diocese of San Diego—sdcatholic.org.

24/7 Catholic Radio on AM 1000 or RelevantRadio.com—Sunday Mass is broadcast at 7:00pm on Saturdays and 7:00am and 6:00pm on Sundays, plus a wide variety of programming.

24/7 Catholic Television on EWTN—Also, Sunday Mass is broadcast at 9:00am every Sunday.

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.jpcatholic.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.

Palomar College Religious Studies Program—For more information, visit https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/religiousstudies.

Presentations and Retreats at Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center—visit *www.sanluisrey.org* for a lineup of activities this summer, including weekly presentations on varied topics, cooking class, and retreats.

Parish Contacts

Updated 11/29/2017

Pastoral Council	Prayer Request LineNancy Whiteside 760-758-4100 x153			
Chairperson Lisa Attardo 760-940-1505	Lee Coccaro 760-758-4100 x153 Project Linus			
SecretaryKirk Stechschulte 859-684-1698	St. Bonaventure Mission			
Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization	Social Justice Committee			
Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (REACH)	Interfaith Center for Worker Justice			
Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)			
Liturgy of the Word for Children	Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131			
Eric & Deborah Williams 760-599-4591	Solutions for Change Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872			
Sacramental PreparationDebbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110 RCIA	Syrian Family Outreach Patrick & Lisa Attardo 760-884-7863			
Moms & Kids	Office Support			
Natalia Sada 760-758-4100 x100	General SupportHenny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100			
Estelle Eral 760-758-4100 x100	Kitchen ManagerRebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100			
The ARK Nursery Lia Keane 760-586-5049	Development Council			
Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530	ChairpersonJody Cadieux 760-809-9761			
Youth MinistryDebbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	Secretary Erik Acheff 760-224-6017			
High SchoolTilly Rudolph 760-758-4100 x161	Annual Catholic AppealLorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102			
Young AdultsRory & Stacey Griffin 760-758-4100 x110	New Construction Brian Leahey 760-224-1674			
Religious Education for AdultsDebbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110	Parish MembershipValerie Thompson 760-630-1703			
Bible Study	Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120			
Centering Prayer	Publicity/Public RelationsJane Gladden 760-659-6168			
Men's Fellowship	Scrip Sales			
Vocations	Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965 Stewardship			
Liturgy	Vehicle Donations			
Art & Environment	Welcome Ministry			
Bereavement MinistrySr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131	-			
Eucharistic Adoration	Finance Council			
Liturgical MinistriesDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140	Chairperson			
Music Ministry	Secretary Nancy Busse 760-519-7783 Budget Review Don Eppich 760-744-8705			
Sacristans—Altar Guild	Financial Liaison			
Sacristans—Altar Linens	Inventory			
Wedding Coordinator	PersonnelNina Woodard 760-717-1431			
Bringing the Celebration Home Erin Barela 760-580-5659	Building & Maintenance Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x104			
Diocesan LiaisonAndrea Spencer 760-560-6540	Parish Emergency Preparedness Mario Cugini 760-726-2932			
Family Services Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100	Special ProjectsBill Ipsen 760-723-0402			
LGBTQ Support Groups				
LGBTQ Persons Emil Wick 760-758-4100 x173				
Parents & FamiliesMatt & Lena Rumps 760-758-4100 x174				
Transgender/Transition Issues Geri Herold 760-758-4100 x175	Developed Claff			
Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100	Pastoral Staff Para Michael Retrievals Posters 760 758 4100 v100			
Widows & Widowers of North CountyCarol Kope 760-726-0533 Parish Organizations & EventsPatrick Attardo 760-940-1505	Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor 760-758-4100 x100 Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest 760-758-4100 x133			
Annual Parish Fundraiser	Dcn. John Fredette			
Historian/Archives Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450	Den. Thomas Goeltz			
Knights of Columbus Mike Sterling 760-500-1648	Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate			
Social Activities	Dcn. John Fredette, Business Manager			
Michael Haubert 949-322-6457	Debbie Fredette, Director of Faith Formation			
Spirited Seniors	Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant 760-758-4100 x110			
Tommy's CaféTilly Rudolph 760-758-4100 x161	Lia Keane, Director of Ark Nursery			
Treasures Rummage Sale John Murphy 760-497-6117	Tilly Rudolph, Youth Advocate			
Women's Guild Trish Feeley 760-685-6227	Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy & Music			
Social Ministries	Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist			
Brother Benno's Collection	Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development. 760-758-4100 x120			
Brother Benno's Kitchen ServerDon & Jan Le May 760-724-7257	Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance			
Christmas Angel Ministry Kevin & Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965	Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary760-758-4100 x100			
CPR/AED Classes	Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician			
Culture of Life	Rebecca Eyer, Sacristan			
Disability Facilitation	Brian Leahey, Director of Construction			
Jail Ministry	Pastoral Staff emails are firstnamelastinitial@stmoside.org			
Mental Health Ministry	for example, michaelr@stmoside.org			
	Also available on the website: stmoside.org			
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