



# UNDERSTANDING

*Fides quaerens intellectum*  
– St. Anselm

**FAITH SEEKING**

## Adult Faith Formation Activities 2011/12

- Classes
- Small Group Studies
- Retreats
- Breakfasts
- Presentations

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas More,

***Theology: Faith Seeking Understanding***

We reflect upon the above quote by St. Anselm as we begin our new Parish Year and announce a series of opportunities for faith enrichment—faith seeking understanding. These events are geared for adults, but are open to people of all ages who may be interested.

This brochure details the various events and activities for 2011/12 here at St. Thomas More.

The opportunities this year are many and varied. All will help us become “global Christians” in the spirit of Rev. John Stott, the Anglican Clergyman voted by Time magazine in 2005 as one of the hundred most influential people in the world. He once said: “We must be global Christians, with a global mission, because God is a global God.”

Please take time to review the brochure and place some or all of these opportunities on your personal schedule.

You are a person of faith—continue to seek greater understanding!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Mike*

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
Pastor



## Year at a Glance

### ***JustFaith***

30-week course on social justice issues  
starting week of September 18; daytime or evening options

### **Catholicism: It's Your Story**

Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith  
Wednesday evenings, September 21 and 28,  
all of October and January, 7:00pm

### **Bible Study**

#### **Letters in the Bible: James, Peter, and Jude**

Wednesday mornings at 9:00am or Thursday evenings at 7:00pm  
September 28-November 10

#### **The Gospel According to John and the Johannine Letters**

Wednesday mornings at 9:00am or Thursday evenings at 7:00pm  
January 4-May 10

### **Women's Fellowship**

#### **Retreat**

Friday, September 30, 7:00-9:00pm  
Saturday, October 1, 8:30am-6:00pm and  
Mass at 10:30am on Sunday, October 2

#### **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, May 19, 8:00-10:00am

### **Men's Fellowship**

#### **Retreat**

October 14-16, Camp Cedar Glen in Julian

#### **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, February 25, 8:00-10:00am

#### **Meetings**

Second Friday of each month, 7:00pm

### **Children of Abraham Interfaith Prayer Service**

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00pm

### ***A Walk into the Future . . .***

### **Come See the Interior of Our New Church**

Wednesday December 14, 7:00pm

### ***JustMatters*—Engaging Our Conflicts:**

### **An Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking**

8-week course beginning Wednesday, February 1, 7:00pm

### **Parish Mission: The Abundant Love God Has for the People of God Proclaimed in Jesus Christ**

Monday, April 23-Thursday, April 26, 7:00pm

### **Human Trafficking—What It Is and What We Can Do**

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00pm





## **JustFaith**

30-week course on social justice issues starting week of September 18; daytime or evening options

In 2010/11, 33 Parishioners from St. Thomas More and St. Francis completed a 30-week course called *JustFaith*. Many found it to be a life changing experience! A new course begins the week of September 18.

*JustFaith* is an intense process of exploring how our Christian faith challenges us to live our lives with deeper love and compassion. The vision of the gospels and Catholic social teaching speaks to life-giving choices on behalf of a world that struggles to survive. The main focus for our reading, discussion, prayer, and “hands-on” experiences will be about domestic and international poverty with topics ranging from the scriptural call to particular care for the poor, causes of hunger, racism, violence, consumerism, sexism, and third-world issues, to name but a few.

The power and attraction of *JustFaith* comes from the fact that it has provided a practical, proven strategy for empowering people to become



thoughtful, energetic agents of the Church’s efforts to create a more loving and just world. It has changed many peoples lives! It can change yours!

For more information or to sign up, contact Sr. Maureen Brown at 760-758-4100 x131 or [maureenb@stmoside.org](mailto:maureenb@stmoside.org).



## **Catholicism: It’s Your Story**

Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith

Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire Catholic Ministries* offers a vision of the Catholic Faith which has never before been seen. This vision seeks to explore, through a global journey, the living culture of the Catholic Church. From the lands of the Bible, to the great shrines of Europe, to the shores and heartland of America, to the mysteries of Asia, to the rich landscapes of Latin America, to the beating heart of Africa and beyond, witness the passion and glory of the faith that claims over a billion of the earth’s people as its own.

Ten sessions ~ DVD and discussion  
September 21, 28;  
October 5, 12, 19, 26;



January 4, 11, 18, 25

7:00-8:30pm

Free Will Offering

Open to all interested Parishioners and friends

Attend as many sessions as you can

Fulfills the requirement of preparation for Adult Confirmation (attendance required)

Topics include:

- Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man
- Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus
- The Ineffable Mystery of God: That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought
- Our Tainted Nature’s Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God
- The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure
- A Body Both Suffering and Glorious: The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church
- Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Church’s Sacraments and Worship
- A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints
- The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
- World Without End: The Last Things

Watch the bulletin for sign-up details.

## **W**omen's Fellowship

### **Retreat**

*with Tammy Evevard*

Friday, September 30, 7:00-9:00pm

Saturday, October 1, 8:30am-6:00pm and

10:30am Mass on Sunday, October 2

Theme: Becoming...the Woman God Made You to Be

*Cost is \$60; registration form is available at [www.stmoside.org/women](http://www.stmoside.org/women)*

Speaker: Tammy Evevard, who has spent the past twenty years telling anyone who will listen about the amazing love God has for us.

Through her own experiences Tammy shares a journey of love, laughter, disappointments, and sorrow with a constant thread of faith sewn through the tapestry of many colors.

There are many things that make up our lives and Tammy has found that these things are what make us who we are—the good, the bad, and everything in between. As a girl, a teen, and an adult woman...Tammy has found that through it all there is a grace that can only come from the hand of God.



### **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, May 19, 8:00-10:30am

STM Women's Fellowship is a dynamic group of women sharing life and faith with one another. This is a ministry geared towards renewing and refreshing women so that they can continue to serve their families and communities. We celebrate and share the gifts that we have been given with one another and support each other in our faith journey.

## **M**en's Fellowship

### **Retreat**

October 14-16,

Camp Cedar Glen in Julian

Theme: *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another*—Proverbs 27:17

Featured speaker will be Cyril Jones-Kellett, MA.

*Cost is \$150; registration form is available at [www.stmoside.org/men](http://www.stmoside.org/men)*

### **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, February 25

8:00-10:30am

Featured speaker will be John Vignol, a native Californian, who attended Catholic elementary and high



school, then went to the University of San Francisco where he earned a BA in History and an MA in Catholic Church History, with another MA from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, in Scripture and Church History. He has taught in Catholic schools for over 35 years, with 28 at St. Augustine High School in San Diego. He has been with the Diocesan Institute for six years.

### **Meetings**

Second Friday of each month, 7:00pm

STM Men's Fellowship brings together like-minded men with a growing hunger for God. It provides an opportunity for fellowship, discussion, and growth through spiritual connection with other men; taking into consideration the spiritual needs and experiences that are particular to men. This ministry will promote, support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of the men of St. Thomas More Parish by taking responsibility for our faith formation and by offering support through prayer, scripture reading, communication, and networking. As Catholic men united, we can grow to be better sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers in Christ.

## **B**ible Study

**Letters in the Bible:  
James, Peter, and Jude**

7 weeks, September 28-November 10  
Wednesday mornings at 9:00am  
or Thursday evenings at 7:00pm

\$20 materials fee

Consistent attendance is encouraged

Profound differences as well as intriguing similarities are discovered in these four letters, each written to strengthen Christian communities scattered across a wide region of the Roman Empire.

## **The Gospel According to John and the Johannine Letters**

15 weeks, January 4-May 10  
Wednesday mornings at 9:00am  
or Thursday evenings at 7:00pm

\$20 materials fee

Consistent attendance is encouraged

Written in a poetic and symbolic style, John's Gospel and letters prayerfully reflect on Jesus and his eternal relationship to the Creator. This study invites you to meditate on God's overwhelming love.

*Watch the bulletin for sign-up details.*



## **C**hildren of Abraham Interfaith Prayer Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00pm

St. Thomas More will host our second annual Interfaith Prayer Service. Clergy representing the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Faiths will come together to lead the Assembly in prayer and thanksgiving.

In this present moment in the history of our global village, it is important that people of good will come together, rise above differences, rejoice in diversity, and seek and celebrate that which we have in common.

There is only one God! Let us pray that people of all religions come to the realization that we are all sisters and brothers sharing time together, only for awhile, on this Planet Earth.

Religion should bring people together, not keep us apart! Please plan to join us.



## **A** Walk into the Future . . . Come See the Interior of Our New Church

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00pm

Years in the design, our permanent church building is nearly ready to begin construction. With groundbreaking on the new worship space slated for January 2012, what better

way to celebrate than to take a virtual tour of the interior of the new building in December?

Come and see for yourself what hours of town hall meetings and committee discussions have accomplished! Presented by the project's Liturgical Consultant, Robert Habiger, this extended presentation will answer all your questions about the inside of our church building.

Robert is an Associate of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini and directs the religious practice area for the firm. A registered architect since 1975, he has over 40 years experience with all types of architecture, with an emphasis in ecclesiastical projects. His projects are known for their participatory design process and creative design solutions.



**J**ustMatters—Engaging Our Conflicts: An Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking

February 1, 8, 15, 29,  
March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 7:00pm

Pre-registration will be required and forms will be available in January.

Plan to commit to all 8 weeks.

There is a \$30 materials fee.

Open to all interested Parishioners and friends.

Topics include:

- Introduction and Overview of Violence and Nonviolence
- The Dynamics of Nonviolent Peacemaking
- Interpersonal Nonviolence: Tools for Transforming Conflicts
- Nurturing Nonviolent Church Communities: Journeying Together
- Grappling with Structural/Institutional/Cultural Violence
- Creating a Group Nonviolent Activity/Action

Coordinated by  
Sr. Maureen Brown, CSJ



**P**arish Mission: The Abundant Love God Has for the People of God Proclaimed in Jesus Christ

Monday, April 23-Thursday, April 26,  
7:00pm

Presented by the Redemptorist West Coast Mission Team

Fr. Bill Adams, C.Ss.R, was ordained in 1963. He has been a retreat master, a director of a spiritual renewal center, and a Parish mission preacher.



Fr. Anthony Nguyen, C.Ss.R, was ordained in 1992. He has given many retreats, Parish missions, liturgical workshops, and presentations on the subject of Christian spirituality.

Fr. Richard Schiblin, C.Ss.R, was ordained in 1961. He has been a retreat master, director of a spiritual renewal center, and pastor. He has taught and worked in the fields of justice and peace.



**H**uman Trafficking—What It Is and What We Can Do

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00pm

Srs. Jean and Sheila operate SDS Hope House, a confidential and safe shelter for women coming out of human trafficking situations. Sr. Jean also publishes *Stop Trafficking*, a monthly newsletter that provides readers a broad spectrum of information about and actions against human trafficking.

The sisters will give an overview of human trafficking and outline how we, as Catholics, can become involved in working against this modern day slavery.



Sr. Sheila Novak, SDS



Sr. Jean Schafer, SDS

For questions or more information on any of these topics, contact Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation  
760-758-4100 x110  
kathleenb@stmoside.org

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Holy Days/Feast Days

JustFaith (weekly—various day/time options)

Catholicism: It's Your Story

Bible Study (or Wednesday mornings)

Women's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

Children of Abraham Prayer Service

A Walk into the Future...Interior of Our Church

JustMatters: Engaging Our Conflicts

Parish Mission: Abundant Love of God

Human Trafficking