

Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

1450 South Melrose Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056
760.758.4100 Phone • 760.758.4165 Fax
www.stmoside.org • parishoffice@stmoside.org



Spirituality † Tradition † Community

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz
Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate
(858-945-2251) Hospital Chaplain at
Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green, & UCSD Thornton

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

Mass Schedule
Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am
First Monday of the Month at 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

December 14, 2008 • Third Sunday of Advent

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, December 17
8:45am-7:30pm

Vigil of Christmas

Wednesday, December 24
Masses at 4:00pm and 6:00pm
Caroling at 9:30pm, Mass at 10:00pm

Christmas

Thursday, December 25
Mass at 9:30am

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Inserts: "Did You Know" Envelope; Pastor's Column

Pastor's Column

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

John the Baptist—
The Voice Crying Out
in the Wilderness

Please see the insert
for the Pastor's Column.



Did You Know?

The economy continues to play havoc with our Operations Budget. For the first five months of this fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008), our Offertory Collection is \$8,700 less than what we budgeted for this same period of time.

The "Did You Know?" Campaign helps to contain this shortfall.

Consider a special gift to St. Thomas More this Christmas with the use of a "Did You Know?" envelope.

Let's catch up with what we have budgeted and what we need.

Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am;
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am;
first Monday of the month at 7:00pm;
watch bulletin for holydays

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm (or by appointment)

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday-Friday from 6:30am-7:30pm

Liturgical Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized:

Contact Parish Office at 758-4100 x100

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony:

Contact Parish Office a minimum of nine months in advance

*For further information, call Rev. Michael Ratajczak
at 758-4100 x100 or michaelr@stmoside.org.*

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

Inquiry into the Catholic Faith:

First and third Thursday evenings

Religious Education for Youth & Children:

Two times a month, September-May, on Sundays

Religious Education for Adults: Various times, September-May

Liturgy of the Word for Children: 8:30 and 10:30am Masses

Little Rock Scripture Study: Weekly sessions,
morning or evening

High School Youth Ministry: Monday evenings

Middle School Youth Ministry:

Two Monday evenings per month

Preparation for the Sacraments:

Baptism (for infants):

Begins with an appointment with the Pastor

Baptism (7-14 yrs.)/RCIA:

One to two year process with children and parents

Baptism (adults)/RCIA:

One to two year process; weekly sessions

First Reconciliation: In home process begins in Level 1

First Communion:

In home process begins after first reconciliation

Confirmation: Minimum two year process of preparation;
begins in high school

*For further information, call Kathleen Bell
at 758-4100 x110 or kathleenb@stmoside.org.*

and serve God's people in word and deed.

There are many groups who serve the parishioners
and provide outreach to the local community.

*For further information, see page 10, or call Chris Smith
at 758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

Calendar Highlights

Also check the Parish website for complete calendar information for the current month: www.stmoside.org, then select "Schedules and Calendars"

The Week Ahead

Dec 14 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 14 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Dec 14 Spirited Seniors to attend *Forever Plaid*
at the Avo Theater in Vista
Dec 17 Exposition of the Eucharist

The Month Ahead

Dec 21 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 10:30am Mass
Dec 24 Parish Office closes at Noon
Dec 24-
Jan 2 Parish Office closed
Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas—Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and
10:00pm
Dec 25 Christmas—Mass at 9:30am
Dec 31 Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 5:00pm

The Year Ahead

Jan 1 Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 9:30am
Jan 2 *Family Festival of Christmas* Concert
Jan 11 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Jan 18 Knights of Columbus Breakfast
Jan 25 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Mar 1 New Member Reception
Mar 21-28 Volunteer Team Working in New Orleans
Mar 29-31 Parish Mission with Sound Mission Ministries
Apr 26 *Spring Sing* Invitational Choral Festival Concert
May 1 STM Tenth Annual Golf Classic
May 31 Confirmation

Looking for Information on the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or returning to the Catholic Church after being away? You're invited to Inquiry Sessions, which meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00pm at the Parish Center.

*For information, call
Bob Taylor at 630-4589.*

Can't Get to Mass?

Our Parish has ministers who can bring Holy Communion to anyone who is unable to attend Mass—the homebound, those in the hospital, those in convalescent homes.

Please call the Parish Office at 758-4100 for more information.

Publicize Your Parish Event!

Would you like to publicize a Parish event to the general public? Submit a Press Release Form at least three weeks in advance of your event to have it advertised in local news publications. Press Release Forms are available:

- on the Parish website (www.stmoside.org, Contact Us, Parish Forms),
- the Parish office, or
- from Anne Marshall at 727-2668 or annemarshall@sbcglobal.net.



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 14 (8)

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11

Luke 1:46-50,53-54 (Psalm)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

Monday, December 15 (187)

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a

Psalms 25:4-9

Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 16 (188)

Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13

Psalms 34:2-3,6-7,17-18,19,23

Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 17 (193)

Genesis 49:2,8-10

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

Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, December 18 (194)

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Psalms 72:1,12-13,18-19

Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, December 19 (195)

Judges 13:2-7,24-25a

Psalms 71:3-6,16-17

Luke 1:5-25

Saturday, December 20 (196)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-6

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 21 (11)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Psalms 89:2-5,27,29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13, 5:00pm
Annie McNamara ☩

Sunday, December 14, 8:30am
Tim & Beverly Kowallek

Sunday, December 14, 10:30am
Pauleta Carrillo ☩

Tuesday, December 16, 8:15am
Rita Mazzarella ☩

Wednesday, December 17, 8:15am
Tricia Borba Vasquez ☩

Thursday, December 18, 8:15am
Thelma Mahowald ☩

Friday, December 19, 8:15am
John Franklin ☩

Saturday, December 20, 5:00pm
Lew Crowell ☩

Sunday, December 21, 8:30am
Tadeusz Jqrnecki ☩

Sunday, December 21, 10:30am
Zoe Dorsa ☩

Prayer List

Call 758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

The Ainis Family
Mary Alexander
Mary Baker
Patricia Barbour
Carl Bechtold
Cindra Bell
Tom Belprez
Nancy Bermudez
Beatrice Brooks & family
Janet Brown
Raymond Brown
James Coleman
Berwyn Collentine
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Daniel Dallenbach
Linda Dossman
Kathryn Ernst
The Fiore Family
Peggy Fischer
Larry Fisk
The Capt. Warren Frank Family
Rick Gonzalez
Claudette Gunderson
Anita Hage
Susan Hallahan
The Harker Family
Rita Harnacker
Bud Hazlett
Barry Henwood
Cynthia Horner
Vesna Ivcevic
Bernie & Ginny Jaeger
Sue Johnston
Joan Jones
Colleen Kaup
Paul Kennedy
Debbie Kinny
George Kleekamp
Willis Koffroth
Carol Kope
Sr. Anne Kremenik
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Brandon LeBlanc
Patty Lewis
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
Loree Luther
Jackie Lynn
James MacArthur
The Carole Markell Family
Ken Mauro
Bob McWilliams
Julie Milius
Carroll Tom & Nona Miller
Nancy Moore
Andy Murchison
Sarah Murphy-Parson
Margie Myers

R. Northrup
Henry "Bud" Parson
Helen Pingtella
Nikol Pitesa
Anne Post
Otila Quiroz
Janet Raiman
Margo Redford
Joanne Robinson
Max Rococeles
Sr. Loyola Romey
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
Nick Saltau
Julie Shea
Norm Shultz
Ed Sox
Dorothy and Ray Staehr
Robert Sullivan
Ginger Thompson
Lisa & Kyle Valpoon
Arnie Velasco
Lisa Vickonoff
The Vienna Family
Dominic Vienna, Jr.
Jeanie Vitale
Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
Kevin Watson-Graff
Marilyn Wesel
John Whitton

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:

1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
Pfc John Brandone
Christian Caplinger, US Army
Pfc. Nicholas B. Dawson,
US Army
Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle,
USMC
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Col. Kathleen Henderson
Med. Staff Sgt. Jana Alexander
Madrid, USAF
Ronald Meyers, US Navy
Search & Rescue
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Spec. Jared Ratzlaff, US Army
Julian Torres, USMC
Maj. Scott Wadle

All-powerful God, be their constant companion and strength in every adversity. May they experience your faithful presence, gentle love and compassionate healing.

PINK?!

Liturgy & Music

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**Rejoice in God's Call
Christian Stewardship**

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Eucharistic Adoration

*Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm
Blessed Sacrament Chapel*

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays and one other day of each month. Next date: Wednesday, December 17.

*For more information, contact
John O'Donnell at 598-6003.*

**The Parish Office
will be closed
for the
Christmas Holidays
from
Wednesday, December 24,
at noon through
Friday, January 2.**

**St. Thomas More
Vehicle Donation
Program**



Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
The St. Thomas More program is easy!

Call us, and we'll have it picked up.
You get the tax deduction!



Call the
Parish Office at
760-758-4100
x100

Penance Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Mon., Dec. 15	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue., Dec. 16	6:30pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Wed., Dec. 17	7:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook
Thu., Dec. 18	6:30pm	St. John, Encinitas
Fri., Dec. 19	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Mon., Dec. 22	6:30pm	St. Francis, Vista

Oplatki—Christmas Wafers

The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread." The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship.

Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home.

One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A Wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is given to everyone present gathered together for the Christmas meal.

With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the designated family member then invites everyone to go to another person, and with a gesture of a hug, kiss, or handshake, ask forgiveness for anything they may have done to hurt that family member in the past year, and to seek God's blessings upon them in the coming year.

Each person, as the words are said, then breaks a piece off of each other's Wafer and consumes the piece that has been broken off.

The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is unity of the family—the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist among the members of the family.

The members of the family are the links in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and the One Church. The family is part of the eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

These Christmas Wafers, and the home ritual surrounding their use, originated in Poland. This custom and ritual is also popular in Slovakia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and other parts of Catholic Eastern Europe.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available after Mass at the information Table on the plaza this weekend and in the coming weeks before Christmas. The Wafers are free, but donations will be accepted.

I encourage you to make this home ritual a part of your Christmas traditions.

We give thanks to Parishioners, Ed and Clarice Bednarz, who have provided us with these Christmas Wafers.

Please take advantage of this gift, and if you have already, start a new family Christmas tradition. —Fr. Mike

**Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioners**

Martin & Diantha Zschoche

Congratulations to:

Tim & Beverly Kowallek

who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on December 14.

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 soul of:



Dominic Vienna, Sr., who died on December 5. His Funeral Service will be held at a later date at Pearl Harbor. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

Christmas Angel Update

You have once again amazed us with your generosity. We have received hundreds of gifts and gift cards to give to local charities this year. We made a trip to Brother Benno's this past week to distribute toys, and the workers were so happy! By the time you read this, we will have stuffed hundreds of stockings and small gift bags with small gifts and candy for Catholic Charities and delivered the remaining gifts.



We are mailing the Christmas boxes to our Christmas Connection Families at our Sister Parish in New Orleans. In a time of weakened and even frightening economy, our faith community at St. Thomas More has still managed to give those in need. Thank you for stepping out in faith, care, and joyful hearts to all of God's people.

Our efforts continue into the next phase of the Christmas Angel Ministry. You will notice that the tree is now covered with crowns representing the gifts to Baby Jesus from the Magi. Our Parish has traditionally supported Birth Choice in San Marcos. Please stop by the tree and pick up a "crown." The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated the weekend of January 3-4. You are asked to bring your unwrapped, new baby items and place them in front of the manger scene before Masses on this weekend. Our wonderful team of volunteers will deliver them to Birth Choice to help support many new young mothers in need.

God bless you abundantly during this amazing season of His Love and Light.

Questions? Please call RJ and Suzee Irwin at 597-2706.

Little Rock Scripture Studies**Touching the Mysteries: Scripture and Rosary**

We would like to invite you to join us in the study of Scripture and the Rosary, beginning on Wednesday, January 14, at 9:00am, or Thursday, January 15, at 7:00pm, for five weeks. The study focuses on the biblical stories that provide background for the mysteries of the rosary. Each session is devoted to a set of mysteries—joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious. The representatives will be on the Plaza after Masses to answer any questions you might have or to assist you in registering. Thank you very much.

Seniors Special Needs and Services

Are you aware that there are many services for seniors with special needs in North County? One of the services is Interfaith Community Services, which helps elderly seniors in many ways. The Case Management Services component focuses on enabling seniors to remain in their homes and feel safe. This service provides intensive hands-on assistance in working through the maze of health and social services, providing assistance with emergent needs such as food, transportation, finances, housing, emergency assistance, and medical/dental resources, and responding to individual crisis situations. This service is free to seniors 55 and older. Through Project CARE (Community Action to Reach the Elderly), Interfaith Community Services provides help to the elderly and disabled seniors. This non-profit organization has served the North County community for over 23 years. There is also a "Minor Home Modification" program funded by Aging and Independent Services. This group of volunteers assist in making minor home repairs for qualified seniors. To obtain more information about senior services, please contact Ann Eriksson at 599-7151.

New Orleans Still Needs Our Help

We need to begin serious planning for those who would like to join the group from parish traveling to New Orleans March 21-28, 2009, to continue rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Next weekend, Danny Treat, our young adult parishioner who has been in New Orleans for this entire year, will be extending a special invitation to you to consider joining him this March. He will also be outside after Mass to answer any questions.

If you have already committed to going with the Parish group or are in any way interested, please mark your calendar now for an information meeting on Thursday, January 8, at 6:30pm for a potluck dessert and information sharing.

*For more information, please contact
Sr. Maureen at 758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org.*

Knights of Columbus

Entertainment Books—The Knights of Columbus will be selling Entertainment Books this year. The books are great gifts and will be available on the Plaza after Masses. Please call Jim Bailey at 754-1635 to reserve your book.

Christmas Cards and Magnets—We will be selling Christmas cards and "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets on the Plaza after Masses while supplies last.



Retirement Fund for Priests and Religious

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin last week. Your generosity will be much appreciated by the retired priests and religious who benefit! Envelopes may be returned any time during the month of December.


Thank You!

The High School Youth Group wishes to thank Germaine Wilmott for her generous donation of Huggy Buddies for this year's drive. Thank you Germaine!

STM Scrip News

Are you making a list and checking it twice? Get started by checking out the updated Scrip List. Stop by the Scrip table after Mass for a copy and for more information on how Scrip can make your holiday gift buying faster and easier!

For information, call Theresa Goeltz at 453-2876



Middle School Youth Group
Next Meeting
Monday, December 15
7:00pm

*For more information, contact Ron or Louise at
758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.
Visit the website: www.stmoside.org/ym.*

Monday Night Youth Group

December 15, 7:00-8:30pm

Meet and end on the lower level of the Parish Center

HUGGY BUDDIES DELIVERY NIGHT

*Call Gale at 726-7236 for more information.
Visit the website: www.stmoside.org/hsym.htm.*

BE THE CHANGE

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

High School Retreat 2009
at Kamp Kuper, Escondido
Friday, January 23, at 6:00pm
to
Sunday, January 25, after 10:30am Mass
\$95.00 (includes Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast)
\$40.00 Deposit due by January 5

Contact Person: Gale Gibbons 726-7236 or galeg@stmoside.org

I Want to Earn STM Building Fund \$\$\$ with My...

Albertson's Card #(11 digits) _____

Ralph's Card #(13 digits) _____

Please send me a Food 4 Less Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please place completed form in the collection basket or return it to the \$CRIP table after weekend Masses or the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
douglasl@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x140



WHAT'S WITH THE PINK CANDLE THIS WEEK?

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

Gaudete Sunday

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

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

Continuing the Journey

The prayers for today make a shift from the end times to the approaching solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. In the Opening Prayer, we ask that as we look forward to the birth of Christ we may be filled with “joy,” so that our celebration may be one of “love and thanksgiving.” The Prayer after Communion asks for the fruits of the Eucharist, to “free us from our sins, and prepare us for the birthday of our Savior.”

Should commercialism or the evils of the world get us down, we need to look at the Advent wreath with its candles burning down patiently, a new one each week in the spiral they create, going down as we light the rose one this week which fills us with joy that we are getting closer and closer to the coming of the Lord—the child who is our joy, the child who is our victory.

REJOICE!



Music Ministry Next Week

DECEMBER 20/21

5:00pm Mass

Cantor

8:30am Mass

Children’s Choir

10:30am Mass

Adult Choir

DECEMBER 24

4:00pm Mass

Children’s Choir

6:00pm Mass

MNM Music Team

9:30pm CAROLING

Congregational Carols
Adult Choir &
Handbell Choir

10:00pm Mass

Adult Choir &
Handbell Choir

DECEMBER 25

9:30am Mass

Adult Choir &
Handbell Choir

FAMILY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Friday, January 2
7:00pm

Upper Level

*O come,
all ye faithful,
joyful and
triumphant!*



Throughout the world, families join together at Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Savior with words and music, around the hearth and at table. We share the stories of lands far and near. We sing the carols and songs that make the season a true reflection of God’s love on earth.

St. Thomas More’s Music Ministry invites you to celebrate the Christmas season and to join us as we gather to sing the songs of Christmas.

The Children’s Choir, Handbell Choir, Monday Night Mass Music Team, and Adult Choir will host an evening featuring music, stories for all ages, and even a bit of Christmas cheer.

We will make music—carols, choirs, handbells, piano, and organ will all add to our joyful noise!

We will share stories—Christmas wonder, holiday fun, a bit of “snowbound” silliness for each of us.

Near the end of the Christmas season, on Epiphany, we celebrate the visit of the magi to the Child of Bethlehem. They came bearing gifts. This year, on January 2, we will come together to join in fervent music-making and glad storytelling, and we present ourselves and our joyful noise to that same Child.

*Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

WEDNESDAY OF THE
THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:45am - 7:30pm, Families: 6:30 - 7:30pm

INTENTION FOR THE DAY

That we may always be a people of hope.

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
Director of Faith Formation
kathleenb@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x110

Today is a **RE.A.CH** day
Religious Education for Adolescents & Children
at Church!

Check your calendar

...and your Annual Plan (also on the parish website)

- * Dec. 14 CHURCH
- * Dec. 21 HOME
- * Dec. 28 HOME
- * Jan. 4 HOME
- * Jan. 11 CHURCH

High School, Phase I courses:

- * Feb. 9, 16, 23 Monday Mini Course
- * Mar. 1,2,15,22; Apr. 5 Core Course
- * Apr. 19, 26; May 3 Sunday Mini Course

Tidbits of Faith

“You’re never too old to learn!” is a familiar phrase. In recent years I have been upset in seeing XMAS signs because I felt “they” were trying to leave Christ out of “Christ”mas.

Here’s a better explanation ~

In the early 70’s AD, Christians hid in the catacombs (underground burial places) from the Roman soldiers, who would not enter because they were superstitious. Paintings and inscriptions have been discovered in the catacombs. The Greek letter “X” was used as one of these earliest inscriptions. X in Greek is “Chi”, the first letter in the name of Christ.

So now, when I see XMAS, I say to myself, “that’s Greek to me!”

The Christian symbol of the fish comes from the same origins. ICTHUS is Greek for fish.

I	Iesous—Jesus (I in Greek is J in English)
CH	Christos—Christ
TH	Theou—God’s
U	Uious—Son
S	Soter—Savior



Kathleen

Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Faith

* January 7, 2009 • 9:00am & 7:00pm

“*Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies*” continues with *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread* by Michael Schut. Gale Gibbons will be our facilitator and guarantees the book will be excellent reading over the holidays when family meals take on particular significance.

Books are available for \$11 in the hall outside the Faith Formation Office. Anyone is welcome to join in!

* March 4, 2009

“*Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies*” continues with *The Gift of the Red Bird* by Paula Darcy. Sister Maureen, facilitating

* March 29, 30, 31, 2009

Faithful Families—Our Parish Mission

An exciting event for the whole family ~ calendar the dates NOW!

If you would like to help out on the planning committees, please contact Wayne Zych at 717-1145 soon. Many hands make light work!

* May 6, 2009

“*Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies*” continues with *Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana* by Anne Rice. Fr. Mike facilitating

(Please note the March and May books have been switched, because this book will then be available in paperback.)

Re-Discover Catholicism

A wonderful group of folks from a wide variety of backgrounds attended the first session on December 2! We had such a good turn out that we’ve moved to a bigger space so YOU can attend too. Come and deepen your understanding of your Catholic faith.

It’s not too late to come this Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00pm on the lower level.

PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center at Catholic Charities in Vista)

2009 GOAL: 365 jars
Collected to date: 59 jars



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Understand and Rejoice in God's Call!

Advent is clearly a season of giving and being grateful for God's gifts to us. Even in hard times, generally speaking, there is always someone out there who is in greater need than we are. This is a good time to discover opportunities to help others ~ a time for being compassionate and unselfish.

Our Christmas Angel Ministry has had a tremendous response from our Faith Community and are in the process of distributing the many gifts collected to various organizations that fill needs. We are again most grateful for the generosity of our parishioners!

This week we are highlighting two of our ministries that are much less visible, but are very important nonetheless. There are currently ten parishioners who make sure these details are covered each week. Help is welcome and training is included!

ALTAR LINENS

Parishioners dedicated to washing and ironing, on a weekly basis, all of the items used on the altar during each Mass, including:

- Small altar linens
- Purificators
- Corporals
- Finger towels
- Finger and dish towels used to dry the Chalices

These items are picked up on Monday and returned to the Church several days later. To help with this rewarding ministry, please call **Marge Gillen at 639-1929**.

HOLY HOUSEKEEPING

Parishioners tend to multiple behind-the-scenes tasks, including vestment care, that also happen on a weekly basis:

- Check altar, altar cloths and candle holders on both upper and lower level. Remove wax and polish.
- Dust and polish all altar furnishings in the Church (upper & lower level) and Blessed Sacrament Chapel.
- Clean glass door of the Chapel.
- Check altar server albs to see if they need to be washed (delicate cycle) and hang according to size.
- Altar cloths are always taken to the cleaners with a round cylinder to roll them on.
- Check small cloth that is used to cover the gift table.
- Polish trays used for Sunday and daily Masses if needed.
- Clean and polish Thurible (vessel for incensing) monthly.
- Clean Holy Water Font.
- Check to be sure that everything is ready for weekend Mass.

To help with this important, behind-the-scenes ministry, please contact: **Kathy Wilson at 758-2538 or sixwilsons@pacbell.net**.

Advent scripture resounds with the call to be prayerful, grateful and to answer God's call. Are you three for three?

**Even if you are on the right track,
you'll get run over if you just sit there.**

—Will Rogers

GOT DEDUCTIONS? HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS

As 2008 draws to a close, and you review your financial situation for your IRS returns, there may be an opportunity for greater charitable giving before the end of this year.

Year-End Checklist

- ◆ Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.
- ◆ If you sold securities this year and will owe capital gains tax, remember that gifts of cash or other securities may partially or fully offset any tax on your gains.
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal payments?** Any parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude their payments before December 31, 2008. Thank you to all who have already fulfilled their pledges! (*Tithing families, remember that your tithe covers your ACA contribution.*)
- ◆ **BE SURE TO COMPLETE** all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return. **Advance planning with the parish office is essential, since the office will be closed from December 24 at noon-January 2, 2009. Gifts received in the offertory at Masses the weekend of December 27-28 will be credited for year ending 2008.**

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

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated.

Thank you!

2008 National Needs Collection

\$1,548.24

Collection for Thanksgiving Day

Offertory*	\$ 1,125.00
Offertory (Loose Collection)	168.00
Children's envelopes	7.50
Total	\$ 1,300.50

Collection for Week of: December 6/7, 2008

Number of Registered Households:	981
Offertory*	\$ 17,524.55
Offertory (Loose Collection)	1,066.00
Children's envelopes	7.50
Total	\$ 18,598.05

(* Offertory Envelopes, Credit Card withdrawals,
Automatic Checking or Savings Account Deductions)

News from the Larger Church

Sister's Christmas Catechism at North Coast Rep in Solana Beach—Monday, December 15, and Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30pm. For more information, contact 858-481-1055 or http://www.northcoastrep.org/season_special.html.

Twilight Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Wednesday, December 17, 6:00pm. *The Mysterious Magi*: who were these mysterious men who traveled from the East, dressed in strange garb and bearing gifts of royalty who are said to have visited the Holy Family soon after the birth of Jesus? Join Br. James Lockman, OFM, at this retreat and discover how the journey of the Magi might enlighten our celebration of Christmas. For more information and to pre-register, call 757-3659.

Puppet Show at First Night in Escondido—Wednesday, December 31, 7:45-8:15pm or 9:30-10:00pm, at the California Center for the Arts Rehearsal Room. *A Very Beary Nutcracker* will be presented by Kathy Felker, a professional puppeteer (and St. Thomas More parishioner). For more information, visit www.firstnightscondido.com.

The Ones Who Knew St. Francis Musical Program at Mission San Luis Rey Parish in Oceanside—Friday, January 9, 7:00pm, 4070 Mission Ave., Oceanside. A compelling, engaging, and entertaining musical program of stories and songs about St. Francis of Assisi, told from the perspective of the ones who really knew him: his family and friends. For more information and tickets, contact 757-3250 or www.sanluisreyparish.org.

Retrouvaille Retreat Program for Troubled Marriages—If your marriage is not what you want it to be, if communication has broken down, if you are divorced or separated, but want to repair your relationship, then Retrouvaille is for you. Upcoming weekend: January 9-11, 2009. For more information, contact 951-259-9474 or 619-423-0182 (Español).

Hospice Volunteers Needed in San Diego County—Sharp Hospice Care needs caring, compassionate adults and teens to work with the terminally ill and their families throughout San Diego County. Training for hospice volunteers will be January 15-February 7, 2009, for a total of one Thursday evening session and four Saturday sessions. The training's focus is on: communication skills, ethics, needs of the terminally ill, family dynamics, pain and symptom management, grief and bereavement, and spiritual care of the dying and their loved ones. For further information, contact Camelia McRae Gower, Program Coordinator, at 619-667-1900.



St. Francis Church Online Auction—You're invited to check out our online auction! St. Francis Church has joined www.CatholicAuctionsOnline.com as a new high-tech fund raiser. Items are added as they arrive and have a time limit for bidding. Register as a buyer and get started today!

Foster and Affirm Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life in Carlsbad—Join the Serra Club of San Diego North Coast at 8:00am Mass at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad followed by a breakfast meeting on the second Saturday and fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, call 729-9528.

Volunteers Needed as Advocates for Foster Children—Become a child advocate and make a lasting difference in the life

of a foster child. More than just a mentor, you can give hope to a child who has none. For upcoming information session dates, contact www.speakupnow.org or 858-569-2019.

Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside—has an ongoing schedule of retreat activities. For more information, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Diocesan Young Adult Ministry—Contact Carrie Giebel at cgiebel@diocese-sdieog.org or 858-490-8260 for scheduled young adult activities around the Diocese.

University of San Diego Center for Christian Spirituality in San Diego—has released their fall schedule of lectures and workshops. For more information, contact 619-260-4784 or www.sandiego.edu/ccs.

Diocese of San Diego Diocesan Institute—has an ongoing schedule of classes and workshops. For more information, contact 858-490-8212 or bcarr@diocese-sdiego.org.

Natural Family Planning Classes—Great marriage insurance! A moral, healthy, and inexpensive way to plan your family. For current schedules and to register, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org and click on "Ministries" then "Marriage & Family Life."

Take a Stand for Life in Carlsbad—A group of North County parishioners meets from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on the third Monday of each month to peacefully pray the rosary in front of the Carlsbad Planned Parenthood Clinic. The clinic is located at 1820 Marron Road, in the shopping center just west of Plaza Camino Real Mall. Please join us in our prayers for an end to abortion. For more information, call Jahna White at 586-6356.

Stewardship in Action:

Casa de Molina Celebrates 25 Years of Providing Christmas Cheer to Children



For the last 25 years, parishioner Virginia Molina and her family have collected new and gently-used toys all year round for their annual Christmas party, to which they invite about 300 children who otherwise might not receive any gifts. Gifts, refreshments, and entertainment are provided for the children and their families. Dr. Anita Figueredo provides inspiration and financial assistance, and Rev. Michael Ratajczak provides a blessing to all in attendance. At the end of the party each year, the entire volunteer crew offers a prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to serve Him.



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 www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Parish Contacts

Updated 11/26/08

Council Chairs: Pastoral—Doug D’Agrosa 941-6800 • **Finance**—Paul Ibbetson 734-1051 • **Development**—Ron Briseno 726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

- Faith Formation & Evangelization** **Rory Griffin 414-3939**
 - Religious Education (Adults)..... Wayne Zych 598-9244
 - Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 598-1269
 - Little Rock Bible Studies Masako Streling 295-2594
 - Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 - Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 598-7853
 - Sacramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 - Mid. School Youth Ministry Ron & Louise Briseno 758-4100 x153
 - High School Youth Ministry..... Jeff & Gale Gibbons 726-7236
 - Young Adult Ministry..... Joanna Mueller 726-5644
 - Evangelization Available
 - Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 - RCIA/Adults Mario Diaz 758-7870
 - RCIA/Children..... Jeanette Marriott 434-1818
- Liturgy** Available
 - Altar Linen Care Marge Gillen 639-1929
 - Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
 - Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulizio 295-5530
 - Environment & Art Kathy Quinn 722-7525
 - Eucharistic Adoration John O’Donnell 598-6003
 - Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 732-1414
 - Liturgical Ministries Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
 - Liturgical Music..... Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
- Marriage & Family Life** **Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042**
 - FAMILIA Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 - Family Services Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 - Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 758-4100 x100
 - Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 - Parents & Tots Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 - Widows & Widowers..... Helen Kuhn 727-8612
- Parish Organizations & Events** Available
 - Golf Classic John Murphy 945-9935
 - Historian Anne Marshall 727-2668
 - Knights of Columbus John O’Donnell 598-6003
 - Library Chris James 598-5881
 - Spirited Seniors..... Stella Leué 726-3869
 - Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 758-5113
 - Women’s Guild..... Germaine Wilmott 758-9949

Social Ministries **Suzee Irwin 597-2706**

- Blood Drive Linda Dicus 726-5081
- Bereavement Follow-up Support Linda Dicus 726-5081
- Brother Benno’s..... Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 727-8442
- Christmas Angel Ministry..... R.J. Irwin 597-2706
- Congregations for Civic Action... Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
- CPR/AED Classes Phil Goscienski 732-1414
- Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 599-7151
- Fraternity & Michaelle House Carmen Tamayo 727-3028
- Huggy Buddies Program..... Gale Gibbons 726-7236
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
 - Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
- Interfaith Shelter Network Frank Coxon 599-8760
- Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 758-4100 x100
- More’s Workers..... Dick Belprez 295-1431
- Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 806-1310
 - Norma Flanagan 630-0180
- Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 599-8760
- Pro-Life Activities Jane Kelleher 724-9658
- Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*) Jean McCloskey 643-2363
- Sister Parish Program Sr. Maureen Brown, 758-4100 x131
- St. Bonaventure Mission..... Knights of Columbus 598-6003
- Office Support**..... **Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100**
 - Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 758-4100 x102
 - General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100
 - Kitchen Overseer DeAnne Gonzales 598-8748
 - STM Host Program..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

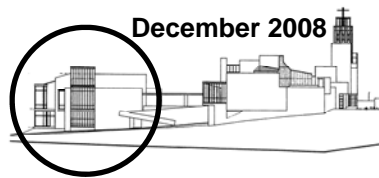
- Annual Catholic Appeal Flora Fallone 758-4100 x100
- Capital Campaign Bill Ipsen 723-0402
- New Construction Brian Leahey 598-5697
- Parish Membership Louise Briseno 726-4496
- Planned Giving Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
- Publicity/Public Relations..... Anne Marshall 727-2668
- Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 734-1051
- Scrip Sales Theresa Goeltz 453-2876
- Stewardship Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
- Vehicle Donations Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Pastoral Staff

- Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor 758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org
- Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130 or 727-8442 thomasg@stmoside.org
- Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate; Hospital Chaplain at Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green & UCSD Thornton 858-945-2251 thomast@stmoside.org
- Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate 758-4100 x131 maureenb@stmoside.org
- Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation 758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.org
- Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers..... 758-4100 x150 jeffg@stmoside.org, galeg@stmoside.org
- Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers 758-4100 x153 ronb@stmoside.org, louiseb@stmoside.org
- Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant..... 758-4100 x110 staceyg@stmoside.org
- Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries 758-4100 x140 douglasl@stmoside.org
- Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director 758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org
- Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development..... 758-4100 x120 chriss@stmoside.org
- Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance 758-4100 x151 joeg@stmoside.org
- Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary..... 758-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org
- Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper 758-4100 x104 nataliep@stmoside.org
- Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician 758-4100 x102 lorrained@stmoside.org

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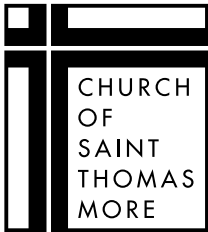
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December 14, 2008 • Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

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

John the Baptist—The Voice Crying Out in the Wilderness

John the Baptist takes on a central role in the story and the journey of Advent. He came into our Scriptures in last Sunday's Gospel and we hear of him again this weekend.

I share with you the "Second Sunday of Advent" homily of Deacon Greg Kandra from Forest Hills, New York. His words gave me a deeper insight into the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus and prepares the way for us. May you find challenge and comfort in the Deacon's thoughts:

This Sunday, after a week of turkey sandwiches, turkey casserole, turkey a la king, turkey burgers, turkey pot pie and turkey surprise...locusts and honey is starting to sound pretty good.

We are here in the second Sunday of Advent—in the desert, with a strange and disheveled figure dining on strange food and proclaiming that we need to make ourselves ready for the Lord.

We tend to think of John the Baptist as the Voice—the forerunner, the prophet, the one crying in the wilderness.

And he is.



But I'd like us to think of him another way this particular Sunday. This man is a figure of great hope. More than an ominous, fearsome figure, he is also, to my mind, the Saint of Second Chances.

He wanders into the desert of our lives and invites us to start over.

Appropriately, we are entering into a liturgical cycle where we will be reading the gospel of Mark—the gospel most scholars believe was the very first one written. And we start with the same words that start the book of Genesis: "The beginning."

And the message from the beginning? Make yourselves new. Begin again. Something is about to happen that will change everything. This is your chance at a fresh start, to make things right with God.

That is John the Baptist's message—the message of the Saint of Second Chances.

And like second chances, he doesn't necessarily appear when or how we expect him to. This preacher isn't Joel Osteen in a silk suit and an air-conditioned arena. John the Baptist is rough and wild and frightening, yelling in the desert.

(Continued on other side)

But then again, God doesn't always enter into our lives when or how we want him to.

The other day I read the story of a 16-year-old Korean boy named Philip Kim. During the Korean War, he was one of many boys rounded up and arrested for refusing to join the People's Volunteer Army of North Korea. They took him to prison and were going to execute him. Philip Kim stood there, lined up with other boys, facing a wall, and he closed his eyes, waiting for the gunshot that would end his life.

But at the last minute, an officer yelled for them to stop. The soldier noticed that one of the other boys lined up against the wall was holding a rosary, and was praying. The execution was called off. The boys were spared.

That moment changed everything. Philip wasn't a Christian. But he never forgot what happened, what had saved his life. Not long after, he converted and came to America. He married, raised a family, became active in his local Catholic church. He settled in San Antonio, Texas, where he opened his home to other Korean immigrants to hold Mass. Those Masses led him to help found the first Korean Catholic Church in San Antonio.

His love for the church led him eventually to being ordained a deacon. Several years later, his wife died after a long battle with breast cancer. Before she died, she gave Philip her blessing to become a priest. And he did. He was ordained at the age of 72. Last week, tragically, Fr. Philip Kim died in a car accident. He was 76.

He owed his remarkable life to a second chance nearly 60 years ago. And he didn't let it get away. He made his life matter.

What about the rest of us?

During this season of Advent, John the Baptist calls out to us, imploring us. You have another chance, he tells us. Seize it. Repent. Prepare. To paraphrase Isaiah: level the mountains and fill the valleys. Make what is crooked straight.

Like the boy facing a wall, and facing death...we can start over.

So, think of those mountains and valleys, those winding roads that cut through every life. And think of the wild and untamed man in the desert. He tells us it's not too late to change.

He is the saint of "I'm sorry. Let's talk."

He is the saint of "Where did I go wrong?" and "How can I make this right?"

He is the saint of "I'm addicted and I need help."

He is the saint of "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."

He is the saint of the slammed door being re-opened...the phone being picked up...the fences being mended...the wound being healed.

Last week, we began not just the season of Advent, but a new liturgical year. So consider this a time for making New Year's resolutions. For resolving to live differently. Resolving to make room for God.

Listen to the Saint of Second Chances—and take hold of every one that comes your way.

The dark days of December, after all, are not ending.

As Mark reminds us, they are "The beginning."

