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



(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

Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

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

Spirituality Tradition Community

December 21, 2008 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

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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Pastor's Column

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

Christmas—The Feast of the Incarnation— Accepting Jesus on His Own Terms

I share with you some thoughts taken from Philip Yancey's book, The Jesus I Never Knew:

"Malcolm Muggeridge observed that in our day, with family-planning clinics offering convenient ways to correct 'mistakes' that might disgrace a family name, 'It is, in point of fact, extremely improbable, under existing conditions, that Jesus would have been permitted to be born at all. Mary's pregnancy, in poor circumstances, and with the father unknown, would have been an obvious case for an abortion; and her talk of having conceived as a result of the intervention of the Holy Ghost would have pointed to the need for psychiatric treatment, and made the case for terminating her pregnancy even stronger. Thus our generation, needing a Savior more, perhaps, than any that has ever existed, would be too humane to allow one to be born.'

(Continued on page 2)

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

The Month Ahead

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 PE A CH Classes (at Church)

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

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

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.

Pastor's Column—continued from page 1

The virgin Mary, though, whose parenthood was unplanned, had a different response. She heard the angel out, pondered the repercussions, and replied, 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.' Often a work of God comes with two edges, great joy and great pain, and in that matter-of-fact response Mary embraced both. She was the first person to accept Jesus on his own terms, regardless of the personal cost."

As we continue our journey through this Advent Season and as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, will we be just having a birthday party for Jesus or will we make our celebration an act of surrender, an act of faith? Will we, like Mary, give our "yes" to God and accept Jesus on His own terms?



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 21 (11) Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Monday, December 22 (198) 1 Samuel 1:24-28

1 Samuel 2:1,4-7,8a-d (Psalm) Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday, December 23 (199) John of Kanty, priest Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Psalm 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14

Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday, December 24 (14)

Vigil of Christmas Isaiah 9:1-6 Psalm 96:1-3,11-13 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, December 25 (16)

Christmas Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-6 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

Friday, December 26 (696)

Stephen, first martyr Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Psalm 31:3-4,6-8,16-17 Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday, December 27 (697)

John, apostle, evangelist 1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12

John 20:2-8

Sunday, December 28 (17) The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary & Joseph Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3 Psalm 105:1-6,8-9

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Luke 2:22-40

Mass Intentions

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

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

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

Tuesday, December 23, 8:15am Eugene Masseth &

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00pm John Tonge &

Wednesday, December 24, 6:00pm Paul Vocks

Wednesday, December 24, 10:00pm Marge Malcovitch

Thursday, December 25, 9:30am Luigi & Anna Luce &

Friday, December 26, 8:15am Thanksgiving for health, family & prayers

Saturday, December 27, 5:00pm Cairo Salvatierre 1

Sunday, December 28, 8:30am Nick Angelucci, Sr. 4

Sunday, December 28, 10:30am Robert Vasquez

Prayer List

The Ainis Family

Mary Alexander

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

Mary Baker Patricia Barbour Carl Bechtold Cindra Bell Tom Belprez Nancy Bermudez Beatrice Brooks & Family Janet Brown The Raymond Brown Family James Coleman Berwyn Collentine Thomas Cornwell & Family Linda Dossman Kathryn Ernst The Fiore Family Larry Fisk The Fleeman Hazlett Family Rick Gonzalez Claudette Gunderson Paula Gurrera Anita Hage Susan Hallahan The Harker Family Rita Harnacker Barry Henwood Cynthia Horner Vesna Ivcevic Bernie & Ginny Jaeger Sue Johnston Joan Jones Colleen Kaup Paul Kennedy Debbie Kinny George Kleekamp Willis Koffroth Sr. Anne Kremenik Lillian Lachance The Lamelin Family Bernie Lanzrath Brandon LeBlanc Patty Lewis Cassandra Loretto Lauren Loretto Loree Luther Jackie Lvnn James MacArthur The Carole Markell Family Ken Mauro Bob McWilliams Carroll Tom & Nona Miller Nancy Moore Andy Murchison Sarah Murphy-Parson Margie Myers Patric Nackla Leticia Navarro Nolberto Navarro R. Northrup

Leticia Omelas

Henry "Bud" Parson

Lupe Casas Pelletier

Helen Pingtella Nikol Pitesa Anne Post Otila Quiroz Janet Raiman Cecil Ramirez Isabel Ramirez (daughter) Isabel Ramirez (mother) Margo Redford Max Roceles Sr. Lovola Romey Dorothy Rouse Rose Rowland The Russo Family Nick Saltau Julie Shea Norm Shultz Ed Sox Dorothy and Ray Staehr Robert Sullivan Ginger Thompson Lisa & Kyle Valpoon Robert Vasquez Arnie Velasco Lisa Vickonoff The Vienna Family Dominic Vienna, Jr. 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, 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.

THE O ANTIPHONS Liturgy & Music

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Christmas Prayer **Faith Formation**

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Saying "Yes" to 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 Next date: Friday, January 2.

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. The Parish Office will reopen on Monday, January 5.

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 ×100

Penance Services at Local Parishes

Date Time Parish

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 common protection of Christ's high is



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

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.

In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:



Raymond Brown, who died on December 15. His Funeral Services are pending. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Freeman "Bud" Hazlett, who died on December 17. His Funeral Services are pending. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

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.

Christmas Angel Update

You have once again amazed us with your generosity! All of the Christmas gifts have been delivered to local charities and shipped to New Orleans.



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.

Retirement Fund for Priests and Religious

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin the first week of December. 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.

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. To obtain more information about senior services, please contact Ann Eriksson at 599-7151.

Social Justice Update

Get on the Bus Program

Our Parish will be joining this very important endeavor. Get on the Bus brings children and their caregivers from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. This is so important! One of the worse things that can happen to a child is to come to believe that their parent has forgotten them or does not love them anymore. Many of these children come from families who cannot afford to travel to the prison on their own.

There are many ways to become involved in this program. In addition to providing the monies for the bus, the program offers travel bags for the children comfort bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the day (breakfast, snacks on the bus, a special lunch at the prison with their parent and dinner on the way home, and a teddy bear with a letter from their parent and post-event counseling.

You are invited to attend an information meeting at our Parish on Saturday, January 10, 9:00-10:30am. Hope to see you there!

-Sr. Maureen

New Orleans Still Needs Our Help

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

This 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.



Middle School Youth Group Next Meeting Monday, January 5, 7:00pm Monday Night Mass

For more information, contact Ron or Louise at 758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.

Visit the website: www.stmoside.org/ym.

HIGH ACHOOL YOUTH AROUP

resumes January 5 for Monday Night Mass January 12 for Monday Night Youth Group at GODSPACE

Ouestions? Gale at 726-7236

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 (includes Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast) \$40 Deposit due by January 5

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

Knights of Columbus

Entertainment Books—The Knights of Columbus are 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 are selling Christmas cards and "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets on the Plaza after Masses while supplies last.

STM \$crip News

ATTENTION SCRIP SHOPPERS—Avoid the lines and traffic at the mall and let Scrip help you with those last minute gifts. Last day for Scrip sales <u>before Christmas</u> will be Tuesday, December 23.

HURRY—This is the final weekend of 2008 to finish your Christmas shopping and put those lists away until next year. Scrip sales will resume on January 6, 2009. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

For information, call Theresa Goeltz at 453-2876

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



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





Music Ministry Next Week

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass

Children's Choir

6:00pm Mass

MNM Music Team

10:00pm Mass

Adult Choir & Handbell Choir

DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Mass

Adult Choir & Handbell Choir

DECEMBER 27/28 The Holy Family

5:00pm Mass

Cantor

8:30am Mass

Cantor

10:30am Mass

Cantor

THE O ANTIPHONS

The "O Antiphons" refer to the seven antiphons that are recited during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23.

The O Antiphons have been part of our tradition since the very early Church. Today, they appear most obviously in "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (Wisdom), O Adonai (Lord), O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (Key of David), O Oriens (Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

O Sapientia: "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way D SAPIENTIA to salvation." Isaiah had



prophesied, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." (11:2-3), and "Wonderful is His counsel and great is His wisdom." (28:29)



O Adonai: "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us

free." Isaiah had prophesied, "Indeed the Lord will be there with us, majestic; yes the Lord our judge, the Lord our lawgiver, the Lord our king, he it is who will save us." (33:22)

O Radix Jesse: "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before



you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid." Isaiah had prophesied, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." (11:1) and "On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious." (11:10) Jesse was the father of King David, and Micah had prophesied that the Messiah

would be of the house and lineage of David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).



O Clavis David: "O Key of David, O roval Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of

death; and lead your captive people into freedom." Isaiah had prophesied, "I will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open." (22:22)

O Oriens: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." Isaiah had prophesied, "The



people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown." (9:1)



O Rex Gentium: "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust." Isaiah had

prophesied, "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." (9:5)

" O Emmanuel: Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God." Isaiah had



prophesied, "The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." (7:14)

The Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one-Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—the Latin words ero cras are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent, now speaks to us, "Tomorrow, I will come." So the "O Antiphons" not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

-Fr. William Saunders

Faith Formation



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

Sharon's

Christmas

Prayer

She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity convinced every word was revelation.



She said

they were so poor

they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat.

and they went a long way from home without getting lost. The lady rode a donkey, the man walked, and the baby was inside the lady.

They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee) but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lited the roof.

Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.

Then the baby was borned.

And do you know who he was?

Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars.

The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air whirled round, dove into the sofa and buried her head under the cushion which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

—John Shea

Peanut Butter and Jelly Update:

2009 GOAL: 365 jars TOTAL to date: 81 jars



We're off to a great start for the new church year!

Blessings on our other parishioners as well who faithfully drop off a jar on a regular basis.

As long as there are hungry children in Vista and Oceanside, we will continue to feed them with your help through the Emergency Food Pantry of Catholic Charities.



Check your RE.A.CH calendar

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

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

High School, Phase I courses:

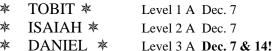
* Feb. 9, 16, 23 Monday Mini Course

* Mar. 1, 2, 15, 22, Apr. 5 Core Course

* Apr. 19, 26, May 3 Sunday Mini Course

Congratulations!

3 of our 17 classes had perfect attendance at our December sessions:



Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Faith

"Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies" continues on January 7 at 9:00am or 7:00pm 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.

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

March 29, 30, 31

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 717-1145 soon.

Stewardship & Development



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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Saying "Yes" to God's Call!

How many times have we encountered difficulties in life and asked, "Why me, Lord?"

And yet, here was the teenaged virgin Mary finding out, from an angel, that she was to bear God's child, and she was even told what to name him. Who would believe that! It was a very dangerous situation for a young woman to be with child if she was not married. Bewildering and frightening at best!

However, instead of objecting and complaining, Mary said, "Yes, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." We are so fortunate to have Mary as a role model. Her entire life after that was one of challenge, but her faith sustained her.

Do we know God's will for us? And, if so, do we accept it? If we think that this is not the ship we signed up for, we are probably on the right ship, but just need to dig in and make the necessary attitude adjustments to see God's will in what we are doing.

There is an old legend that says God first created birds without wings. Sometime later, God made wings and told the birds, 'Come, take up these burdens and bear them.' The birds hesitated at first, but soon obeyed. They tried picking up the wings, but they were too heavy for their beaks. And they were too large to pick up with their claws. Finally one of the birds was able to hoist the wings onto its shoulder where it was possible at last to carry them!



To the amazement of the birds, before long the wings began to grow and they soon had attached themselves to the bodies of the birds. Once one bird began to flap his wings, the others followed his example. Before long, one of them took off and began to soar in the air above!

What had once been a heavy burden now became the very thing that enabled the birds to go where they could never go before . . . and at the same time, truly fulfill the destiny of their creation.

The duties and responsibilities you count as burdens today may be part of God's destiny for your life, the means by which your soul is lifted up and prepared for eternity."

-God's Little Devotional Book

When I reflect on my life it is obvious that many of the things I considered to be "unfair" or unduly challenging are precisely the things that prepared me to be a better Christian steward and to do God's Will. It is rewarding (and still challenging) to see exactly what God has in mind as my life continues to unfold.

When Jesus was born to Mary, the Jews were expecting a strong, heroic man to come and set them free. Instead, a tiny baby born in a manger, grew up as the son of a carpenter and then set examples of love and kindness that were completely foreign to his own people.

Indeed, following Jesus wasn't the ship that many signed up for. Life might not come packaged the way we want or expect, but be assured that it comes the way God intends it to be!

Let your promise become fulfillment!

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

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 <u>COMPLETE</u> all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return. Advance planning with the Parish Office is essential. The office will be closed from December 24 at noon through January 2, 2009. Gifts received in the offertory at Masses the weekend of December 27-28 will be credited for the 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!

Collection for Week of: December 13/14, 2008

Number of Registered Households: 979

Offertory* \$ 8,945.85

Offertory (Loose Collection) 1,173.00

Children's envelopes 4.00

Total \$ 10,122.85

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

There are many ways to help support your Parish.

We offer a variety of options for easier giving. In addition to the extra "mail-back" envelopes included in your packet, we offer automatic:

- ◆ Credit Card Withdrawal (Visa, MC, or Discover)
- Automatic Checking Account Deduction
- ♦ Automatic Savings Account Deduction

To participate in these time-saving alternatives, please contact the Parish Office at: 758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

News from the Larger Church

After Christmas Mini-Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Join us on Saturday, December 27, 2008 for a mini-retreat that takes place after all the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Experience something different. Come and join Brother Mark Schroeder, OFM, and explore the radical implications of the Incarnate God, without the wrappings and trappings of the consumer-driven Christmas. For more information, call 757-3659.

New Year's Eve Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Ring in a sober new year at our annual 12-step retreat, December 30—January 1, 2009. This retreat is open to all who are on the road to recovery or who live by the 12-Step Program for recovery. Spouses, family. and friends are welcome to attend. Focus will be on the 11th Step and exploring the wonderment of spirituality. With Peggy M. and Mark Schroeder, OFM. For more information or to register, please contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

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.firstnightescondido.com*.

Young Adults New Year's Eve Celebration with Jesus in Oceanside—Wednesday, December 31, 9:00pm-1:00am, at the Church of St. Thomas More, 1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside. Looking for a great way to start the New Year? Join other Young Adults, 18-39 from the North County as we enjoy a night guided by the Spirit! The evening will start at 9:00pm with a social, food, and DJ, followed by Praise and Worship music at 10:30pm, Mass at 11:00pm, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11:45pm-12:15am. Then hang around for more great fellowship and fun to ring in the New Year! The event is cosponsored by the new North County Young Adult Group and the Diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry. For more information, visit www.yamsd.org or contact Carrie at cgiebel@diocesesdiego.org or Ron at ronbriseno@cox.net.

Young Adults New Year's Eve Celebration in San Diego—Wednesday, December 31, 10:30pm-1:30am, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 1629 Columbia St., San Diego. *The End and the Beginning* will include praise and worship music, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a social. For more information, contact Alex at *adepaulis011@gmail.com* or Pia at *ppuertollano@powayusd.com*.

La Jolla Renaissance Singers in Concert in San Diego—Sunday, January 4, 3:00pm at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1945 Illion St., San Diego, overlooking Mission Bay. The choir will present *Traditional Christmas Music from Romania*. There is no charge, and all are welcome! For more information, please contact 619-276-1041.

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.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land—Starting May 25, 2009 with Sr. Margaret Kelly, OP, the Director of Religious Education at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Package includes airfare from San Diego, 4-star hotels (double occupancy), daily Mass, breakfast and dinner daily, all entrance fees and admission charges. For more information, contact Sr. Margaret at 619-624-0900.



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 an ongoing 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*.



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	Social MinistriesSuzee Irwin 597-2706							
Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 414-3939	Blood Drive Linda Dicus 726-5081							
Religious Education (Adults)	Bereavement Follow-up SupportLinda Dicus 726-5081							
Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 598-1269	Brother Benno's Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 727-8442							
Little Rock Bible Studies	Christmas Angel Ministry							
Religious Education (Children)Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110	Congregations for Civic Action Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131							
Liturgy of the Word for ChildrenCathy Meyer 598-7853	CPR/AED ClassesPhil Goscienski 732-1414							
Sacramental Preparation	Disability Facilitation							
Mid. School Youth Ministry Ron & Louise Briseno 758-4100 x153	Fraternity & Michaelle House Carmen Tamayo 727-3028							
High School Youth MinistryJeff & Gale Gibbons 726-7236	Huggy Buddies ProgramGale Gibbons 726-7236							
Young Adult MinistryJoanna Mueller 726-5644	Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice							
Evangelization	Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131							
Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 758-4100 x130	Interfaith Shelter NetworkFrank Coxon 599-8760							
RCIA/Adults	Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 758-4100 x100							
RCIA/Children Jeanette Marriott 434-1818	More's WorkersDick Belprez 295-1431							
Liturgy	Prayer Request LinePat Wong 806-1310							
Altar Linen Care	Norma Flanagan 630-0180							
Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131	Project LinusMary Coxon 599-8760							
Ecumenical & Interreligious AffairsRegina Aulisio 295-5530	Pro-Life Activities							
Environment & Art	Sick & Homebound (Eucharist) Jean McCloskey 643-2363							
Eucharistic AdorationJohn O'Donnell 598-6003	Sister Parish Program Sr. Maureen Brown, 758-4100 x131							
Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 732-1414	St. Bonaventure MissionKnights of Columbus 598-6003							
Liturgical MinistriesDouglas Lynn 758-4100 x140	Office SupportHenny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100							
Liturgical Music	Chair Set-Up Lorraine Doering 758-4100 x102							
Marriage & Family Life Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042	General Support							
FAMILIAKalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042	Kitchen Overseer							
Family ServicesDeacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130	STM Host Program Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100							
Marriage PreparationRev. Michael Ratajczak 758-4100 x100	Development Council Committees							
Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130	Annual Catholic AppealFlora Fallone 758-4100 x100							
Parents & Tots	Capital Campaign							
Widows & Widowers Helen Kuhn 727-8612	New Construction Brian Leahey 598-5697							
Parish Organizations & Events	Parish MembershipLouise Briseno 726-4496							
Golf Classic	Planned Giving							
Historian Anne Marshall 727-2668	Publicity/Public Relations Anne Marshall 727-2668							
Knights of Columbus	Sacrificial Giving/TithingPaul Ibbetson 734-1051							
Library Chris James 598-5881	Scrip SalesTheresa Goeltz 453-2876							
Spirited SeniorsStella Leué 726-3869	Stewardship							
Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 758-5113	Vehicle Donations Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100							
Women's GuildGermaine Wilmott 758-9949								
Deate	aval Ctaff							
	oral Staff							
	4100 x130 or 727-8442							
Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate; Hospital Chaplain at	1100 A130 OF 727 OF 12							
	858-945-2251							
	758-4100 x153 ronb@stmoside.org, louiseb@stmoside.org							
Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries								
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director								
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician								
Detronico Our Adverticore								

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A Family Festival of Christmas

Friday, January 2, 2009 7:00 p.m. on the Upper Level



Celebrating the Christmas season with the STM Music Ministry

MNM Music Team Handbell Choir Children's Choir Adult Choir

Carols & Stories Comfort & Joy

Lots of Singing!

An evening for the entire family!



January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Chur	rch of St. Thomas I th Melrose Drive, (760) 758-4100 www.stmoside.org	More		Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day) PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 9:30 AM-Mass	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 8:15 AM-Mass 8:45 AM-Exposition of the Eucharist 6:30 PM-Reposition of the Eucharist 7:00 PM-Family Festival of Christmas (Concert)	4:00 PM-Reconciliation Birth Choice Gifts Returned The Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 PM-Mass
4 Birth Choice Gifts Returned The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC/RCIA 12:00 PM-Baptisms	7:00 PM-Monday Night Mass 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group	6 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus	7 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Fr. Mike & Friends Bookies 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Fr. Mike & Friends Bookies 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults-with Fr. Mike & Friends Bookies	8:15 AM-Mass 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 6:30 PM-New Orleans Potluck/Meeting 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	8:15 AM-Mass 6:00 PM-Epiphany Party for STM & SFA Staff	9:00 AM- Get on the Bus 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Baptism of the Lord 5:00 PM-Mass
Baptism of the Lord 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH	11:00 AM-Women's Guild Luncheon 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H.	8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation - Part I 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Interior Design Team 7:00 PM-RCIA Team Meeting	8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 1:00 PM-Spirited Senior Board 4:00 PM-Staff Meeting 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Development Council 7:00 PM-Young Adults 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry – Adoration	8:15 AM-Mass 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	8:15 AM-Mass 11:00 AM-Parish Social Justice Meeting	9:00 AM-Chair Setup 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Knights of Columbus Breakfast 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 12:00 PM-Baptisms	Martin Luther King, Jr. PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H.	8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal	8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults	8:15 AM-Mass 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Ouilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	23 High School Youth Retreat (Kamp Kuper) 8:15 AM-Mass	High School Youth Retreat (Kamp Kuper) 8:00 AM-Eucharistic Minister Formation Class/Deanery 8:00 AM-Adult CPR/AED 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass
High School Youth Retreat (Kamp Kuper) 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/ Entrance Ritual 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH	7:00 PM-High School Youth Group 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H.	8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation - Part II 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal	8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults	8:15 AM-Mass 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Eucharist Parent Meeting 7:00 PM Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	30 8:15 AM-Mass	9:00 AM-Chair Setup 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass