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



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

Spirituality Tradition Community

January 18, 2009 • Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Annual Golf Classic
Our Tenth Anniversary!
Friday, May 1, 2009—Save the Date

Details and sign ups coming soon.

New Golf Committee members

are welcome!



For more information, contact John Murphy 760-497-9117 or murphy8801@cox.net.

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Pastor's Column

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

Jesus—The Lamb of God

At every Eucharist, during the Breaking of the Bread, and shortly before the reception of Holy Communion, we pray and call out three times—"Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."



What John the Baptist announced

near the Jordan River over two thousand years ago, we continue to celebrate: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away sin and who grants us peace. In his mercy and in that peace, we are privileged to live our lives, set apart by grace and set afire by love for the sake of the world and in the service of the word.

What meaning is contained in this imagery of Jesus as Lamb of God and how does he take away our sin?

As for the title Lamb of God, it seems to have been John, the Gospel writer's, intent that his readers call to mind three lamb figures that were featured in their sacred literatures. First, the title

(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.

Pastor's Column—continued from page 1

recalled the paschal lamb; according to the tradition recorded in the Book of Exodus (12:6-13), the Israelites were instructed to sacrifice a lamb and apply its blood to the doorposts and lintels of their homes. By virtue of the lamb's blood, the Israelites were passed over and delivered from death.

Second, the title recalled the figure of the Suffering Servant, described in the fourth song by Isaiah—Isaiah as an innocent, oppressed and condemned lamb who would give his life as an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:7-10).

Third, the title Lamb of God referenced the figure of a lamb featured in Jewish apocalyptic literature; though slain, this lamb conquered sin (Revelation 5:6), became the source of life-giving water (Revelation 7:17; 22:1), and ransomed humankind by its blood (Revelation 5:9).

By featuring John the Baptist acclaiming Jesus as Lamb of God, John, the Gospel Writer, has offered his readers a full-blown description of Jesus' saving mission, as the lamb by whose blood sinners are delivered from death, as the innocent one who has borne the guilt of many, and as the victorious lamb who has forever conquered sin.

As for how our sin is taken away by the Lamb of God: As civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. set out to overcome racial hatred, he said, "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word." In the face of the real threat of violence, he drew on the image of Jesus and the words of another mentor, Gandhi, who, approaching his own assassination in 1948, insisted on meeting violence with nonviolence:

"If blood be shed, let it be our blood," Gandhi said. "Cultivate the quiet courage of dying without killing. For man lives freely only by his readiness to die, if need be, at the hands of his brother, never by killing him."

"Lamb of God" is a potent messianic symbol that ties the identity and mission of Jesus to Passover. He will liberate his people not by direct power from this or that political oppressor, but from the power of sin itself. Jesus is the one who takes away the sin of the world by absorbing evil into himself, accepting the suffering that sin causes.

John, the Evangelist, shows the kind of messiah Jesus will be and reveals a radical reading of the scriptural prophecies—that God will come to rescue us from evil, not as a warrior but as the victim of our violence and rejection, who is still ready to forgive!

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace...

(The information for this Column was liberally taken from "Preaching Resources, Celebration, January 2002" by Patricia Datchuck Sanchez, Jeannine Lightburn and Rev. James Smith.)



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, January 18 (65)

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19

Psalm 40:2,4,7-10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20

John 1:35-42

Monday, January 19 (311)

Hebrews 5:1-10 Psalm 110:1-4 Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 20 (312)

Fabian, pope, martyr Sebastian, martyr Hebrews 6:10-20 Psalm 111:1-2,4-5,9,10c

Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 21 (313)

Agnes, virgin, martyr Hebrews 7:1-3.15-17 Psalm 110:1-4

Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 22 (314)

Vincent, deacon, martyr

Hebrews 7:25-8:6 Psalm 40:7-10.17

Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 23 (315)

Hebrews 8:6-13 Psalm 85:8,10-14 Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 24 (316)

Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

Hebrews 9:2-3,11-14 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9

Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 25 (519)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Conversion of St. Paul)

Acts 9:1-22 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 16:15-18

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 17, 5:00pm Margaret Alvaro ₽

Sunday, January 18, 8:30am Rita Priest 🕆

Sunday, January 18, 10:30am Olive Burke 🕆

Monday, January 19, 8:15am Agnes Gaugel T

Tuesday, January 20, 8:15am Hans Jakob 🕏

Wednesday, January 21, 8:15am Al Barmasse ♥ Wednesday, January 21, 9:30am

Michael McOnaid T Aegis Assisted LIving

Thursday, January 22, 8:15am Enzo Norelli 🕏

Friday, January 23, 8:15am Lorie Whitmore Saturday, January 24, 5:00pm Jim Tutino 🕆

Sunday, January 25, 8:30am Eleanor Sanger &

Sunday, January 25, 10:30am Mary Macjeski

Prayer List

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

Mary Alexander Mary Baker Patricia Barbour The Bechtold Family Cindra Bell Tom Belprez Katie Bergman Nancy Bermudez Gale Beyer Beatrice Brooks & Family Janet Brown The Raymond Brown Family James Coleman Pat Colev Michael Patrick Contreras Thomas Cornwell & Family Shirley Darcy Cecilia DeSimone Linda Dossman The Durette Family Kathryn Ernst The Fiore Family Betty Fisk Larry Fisk The Fleeman Hazlett Family The Garcia Family

Bob Godlev

Anita Hage

Rick Gonzalez

Paula Gurrera

Susan Hallahan

Rita Harnacker

Barry Henwood

Cynthia Horner

Sue Johnston

Colleen Kaup

Paul Kennedy

Debbie Kinny

Dr. Robert Kladifko

George Kleekamp

Sr. Anne Kremenik

The Lamelin Family

Lillian Lachance

Bernie Lanzrath

Brandon LeBlanc

Cassandra Loretto

James MacArthur

Bob McWilliams

Carroll Tom & Nona Miller

Carol Michael

Nancy Moore

Margie Myers

Patric Nackla

R. Northrup

The Narcy Family

Nolberto Navarro

Leticia Navarro

Lauren Loretto

Loree Luther

Jackie Lynn

Ken Mauro

Willis Koffroth

Joan Jones

The Harker Family

Bernie & Ginny Jaeger

Lisa Vickonoff Dominic Vienna, Jr. Vanessa Vitiello-Koble Kevin Watson-Graff Marilyn Wesel John Whitton

Dorothy and Ray Staehr

Lisa & Kyle Valpoon

Robert Vasquez

Arnie Velasco

Leticia & Patrick Ornelas

Isabel Ramirez (daughter)

Isabel Ramirez (mother)

Lupe Casas Pelletier

Helen Pingtella

Anne Post

Otila Quiroz

Janet Raiman

Cecil Ramirez

Margo Redford

Dorothy Rouse

Rose Rowland

Sr. Loyola Romey

The Russo Family

Dort Riley

Julie Shea

Ed Sox

Nick Soltau

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 who have been Parish deployed:

1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC

Pfc John Brandone Sgt. Jason Cohick, Air Force Reserve Mst. Sgt. Shellie Cohick, Air Force Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle, **USMC** MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC Col. Kathleen Henderson Med. Staff Sgt. Jana Alexander Madrid, USAF Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army Spec. Jared Ratzlaff, US Army Julian Torres, USMC

Thank you for your prayers for Pfc. Nicholas B. Dawson, who has returned home safely.

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.

CHRISTIAN UNITY Liturgy & Music

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Mark Price in Theaters **Faith Formation**

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Our Will or God's Will? **Christian Stewardship**

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Calendar Highlights

Also check the Parish website (www.stmoside.org) for complete calendar information.

The Week Ahead

Jan 18 **Knights of Columbus** Breakfast Jan 19 Mass at 8:15am Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parish Office Closed No Adoration Jan 25 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass

The Month Ahead

Jan 25

Feb 1

Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses Feb 21 Women's Guild Game Day Feb 25 Ash Wednesday Feb 28 Men's Prayer Breakfast

RE.A.CH Classes

(at Church)

The Year Ahead

Mar 1 New Member Reception Mar 21-28 Volunteer Team Working in New Orleans Spirited Seniors Bus Trip Mar 26 Mar 29-30 Parish Mission with Sound Mission Ministries Apr 26 Spring Sing Invitational Choral Festival Concert STM Tenth Annual Golf May 1 Classic

May 31 Confirmation

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



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



Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays. Next date: Friday, February 6.

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

Visit the Parish Website—www.stmoside.org

Click on Our New Church for updates on our build-out progress.

Click on *Ministries/Pastoral Staff* for information on a particular ministry, including liturgy and music, faith formation, youth groups, stewardship, and social justice.

Imagine No Home or Food for Your Family!

Our ministry answers the call by Jesus to feed the hungry in our time and neighborhood. The North County Solutions for Change women and children's shelter needs volunteers for meal preparation, servers, and donations (food and paper goods). Any help you can provide would be welcome!

We need dinners provided for the following dates:

February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 29, and December 27



Contact: Paul & Kalei Mendiola at 760-945-9042 or kaleiann@sbcglobal.net.

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 760-727-2668 or annemarshall@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioner

A.J. Middlesworth David & Leigh Ann Zakrewsky

Announcing the Baptism of Daniel Isaac Torres

on January 18, 2009

Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!



In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:



Luis Cadenas, who died on January 7, 2009. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on January 17 at St. Thomas More. Please keep his family in your prayers.

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

When a Loved One Dies

Call the Parish Office first, before you call the funeral home.

Call anytime, night or day!

Our Parish has a wonderful Bereavement Team that is available when a loved one dies. They are available to assist the family with many arrangements related to the funeral, which might include meeting with the family to pray, helping to plan the funeral, and providing bereavement support afterwards.

In addition, those who like to plan ahead may meet with a Bereavement Team member to pre-plan preferences and place them on record, which can be a great help for children or other family members when the time comes.

For more information, call Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131.

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 760-630-4589.

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.

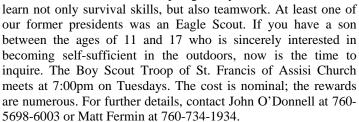
For information, please call the Parish Office at 760-758-4100.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

In accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocese of San Diego has published a brochure that includes information regarding sexual misconduct by Church ministers and how to report any complaints. This brochure, entitled *Sexual Misconduct: Preventing, Responding, Reporting*, is available in our pamphlet rack on the lower level of the Parish Center.

Knights Encourage Boy Scouts

"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country..." For those of us who have been involved with the Boy Scouts of America, the scout oath is a time-honored pledge. Boy Scouts



DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Monday Night High School Youth Group
January 19, 2009
7:00 to 8:30pm
at Godspace
Lower Level of the Parish Center

Call Gale at 726-7236 for more information



Middle School Youth Group Spring Calendar Out Soon!

For more information, contact Ron or Louise at 760-758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.

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

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 760-599-7151.

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: 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

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.

For more information, contact Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

If you are a registered Parishioner, and would like to be on the list for our occasional *eNews—Beyond the Bulletin* messages (reminders about Parish events, funeral notices, etc.), please send an email request to *parishoffice@stmoside.org*.

Thank You...

For your prayers for Dan Dallenbach. They were answered!

STM \$crip News

Thank you to all who purchased Scrip for your shopping needs!

Start the new year off by looking over the Scrip list and making an effort to use the program. This is free money for our church. Let's let the merchants on our list help us build our church.

Scrip is sold after weekend Masses and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00am in the Parish Office.

For information, call Theresa Goeltz at 760-453-2876

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 vou!

Liturgy & Music



Douglas Lynn
Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
douglasl@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x140



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009

January 18-25, 2009

That they may become one in your hand.

-Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a

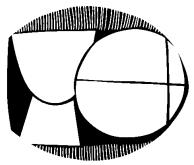
Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

Each year during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity our communities of faith gather to pray together for the full unity which is Christ's will "that all may be one," as he and the Father are one. We see this desire for Christian Unity expressed in the text of Ezekiel in which he did not despair but proclaimed a message of hope for the renewal and the unity of God's people, "that they may become one in your hand." (Ezekiel 37:17)

As we gather once again and pray in the hope of Christian Unity may our actions and prayers embody the true peace, reconciliation, and unity which is to be found where God dwells. For Ezekiel and for our communities of faith this unity is not simply the joining of previously divided groups; it is God's intention for God's people that require conversion and renewal. In this prayer for unity is found the hope that God's people may yet be one.



Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers Christian Churches Together in the USA National Council of Churches of Christ Churches Uniting in Christ Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA



CALLED TO BE A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER? WE CERTAINLY NEED YOU!!!

Music Ministry Next Week

JANUARY 24/25

5:00pm Mass

Adult Choir

8:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

10:30am Mass

MNM Music Team

Formation Class at St. Thomas More Saturday, January 24

The Oceanside Deanery (churches in the northwest portion of the diocese) will present a training at St. Thomas More Parish for those interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. It will take place on Saturday, January 24, from 9:00am to 3:30pm on the upper level of the Parish Center.

Registration forms are available on the Parish's web site at www.stmoside.org/emhc.htm. Print it out

and mail it in with your check for \$10 to cover the registration fee, payable to "Church of St. Thomas More." You also may return form and payment to the reception desk in the Parish Office. Forms are available at the reception desk during regular business hours as well.

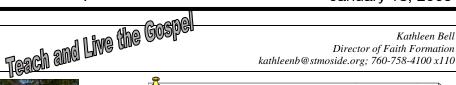
The class will be taught by the top-notch team of Rev. Jerry O'Donnell, of All Hallows Parish, Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC, of St. Francis Parish, and Ms. Mary Ann Fallon, former Director of Liturgy and Spirituality for the Diocese of San Diego.

Eucharistic Ministers must be confirmed in the Catholic Church.

We look forward to having you join us.

For additional information, contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140 or douglasl@stmoside.org.

Faith Formation



"ONE BODY MANY PARTS Saint Paul—In His Own Words" On the Big Screen ONE DAY ONLY



Saturday, January 24, 2009 10:00am-Noon at a Theater Near You!

This Mark Price portrayal is the one we hosted at STM last spring. In this Year of St. Paul, Mark has made a film of his presentation to be shown throughout the United States as we celebrate the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Theaters have been rented in our area for this screening:

- Escondido Stadium 16
 350 W VALLEY PKWY ESCONDIDO 92025
- La Jolla Village 12
 8657 VILLA LA JOLLA DR LA JOLLA 92037
- Oceanside 16

401 MISSION AVE OCEANSIDE 92054

- Mission Valley 20
 - 1640 CAMINO DEL RIO N SAN DIEGO 92108
- Mira Mesa 18 with IMAX
 - 10733 WESTVIEW PKWY SAN DIEGO 92126
- Horton Plaza

475 HORTON PLZ SAN DIEGO 92101

• San Marcos 18

1180 W SAN MARCOS BLVD SAN MARCOS 92078

Additional information about the event can be found at www.markpriceministries.com

Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Faith

February 28 8:00-10:30am

Men's Prayer Breakfast "The Good Samaritan in All of Us" Fr. Michael Barry, SS.CC. President of Mary's Mercy Center

March 4 9:00am & 7:00pm

Book Discussion Gift of the Red Bird by Paula Darcy Sr. Maureen Brown, CSJ, Facilitator Book available, Lower Level, \$11

March 29 and 30 Evenings

Parish Mission—Faithful Families Young, dynamic retreat team: Sound Mission Ministries







Congratulations!

2 of our 17 classes had perfect attendance at our last session:

★ ISAIAH

★ Level 2 A

* EXODUS * Level 5 A



January 29 7:00-8:30pm

Sacramental Preparation Meeting for Parents continues.

A Gift For Our Parish Children

In this media age, our Catechists are constantly challenged to keep children "engaged" during our Religious Education classes. There are many short DVD's available that would help reinforce the instruction on faith concepts.

Perhaps you would care to make a New Year's gift so that we could build up our resources ~ \$20.00 will allow us to purchase one DVD.

Checks would be payable to STM with RE.A.CH in the memo. . . . any size will do!

Gifts already received are deeply appreciated.

Kathleen

High School, Phase I Courses

★ February 9,16,23 Monday Mini Course

March 1,2,15,22,29, April 5 Core Course

★ April 19,26, May 3 Sunday Mini Course

Peanut Butter and Jelly Update

2009 GOAL: 365 jars TOTAL to date: 112 jars



Stewardship & Development



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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Our Will or God's Will?

The first reading today tells one of my favorite stories about Samuel answering God, "Here I am Lord; I come to do Your Will." He heard God's voice, listened and obeyed. He got it!

The Gospel tells of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus to two of John's followers. They immediately left John to follow Jesus, who asked them, "What are you looking for?"

This is a very good time to ask ourselves the same question that Jesus asked. What exactly are we looking for in Christ Jesus? Is this lifetime about us, or about the will of Jesus? Timely question.

Clearly, those who followed Jesus during those early days gave themselves completely to His service. Their lives were devoted to promoting the Gospel, mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. How much suffering they endured and how many faithful martyrs!

Over time many came to feel that one hour (on the dot) for Mass, once a week was all that required of them. That is, after all, the Roman Catholic requirement. "Someone else" could take care of the mission and ministry of Jesus. We are busy with our lives.

I was actually "one of those people" for several years—many years ago—after I had gone through a difficult time in my life. At that point I discontinued all volunteer work for the Church and attended Mass once a week. Period. I always contributed as much as possible financially, but that was it. A modern day martyr!

I share this experience with you so that you know that I have been where some of you appear to be now. Life had treated me unfairly and I decided that God owed me for my pain. I had, after all, been very faithful, followed all the rules and was generous in the areas of time, talent and treasure my entire life . . . only to end up in pain over something that was not my fault. So I quit!

God was incredibly patient with me, in spite of my self-righteous, all-about-me attitude, and made sure that I absorbed the homilies each week during my "one hour" at Mass. Christina was fed.

Then the day came. Many years after Samuel got his message, I got mine and there was no mistaking it.

My message was to come to St. Thomas More. Understand that I had been fighting this message from several friends for over two years. It nearly ruined friendships. I finally came, with the clear declaration to God that I would come, but would not be involved in anyway. I paid my dues already—I even had extra credit!

A month later, I became Finance Council secretary, a position I held for over four years. Hospitality ministry, Christmas Angels, Golf Tournament, and Capital Campaign Follow Up Chairperson followed. Next thing I knew, I was leaving a better paying job to come to work here—and was thankful and delighted about it!

God has a sense of humor and works in mysterious ways.

Jesus gave His life for each of us, in forgiveness for the many ways that we put ourselves first. Consider what He has given us. These days I count my many blessings instead of complaining.

God called me here for a purpose. God called you too . . .

Here I am Lord. I've come to do Your Will.

"Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together" Questions & Answers/January 11, 2009 Update

1. I was out of town last weekend. How can I find out what was said?

The presentation and bulletin insert are available on our website: www.stmoside.org, on the Parish Information table on the plaza, and in the Parish Office.

2. When will we break ground to build our Church? When we have enough money on deposit with the Diocese. One-third of the project cost is required. For us, that is \$3.1 million, and we currently have \$2.8 million on deposit.

AND

Our Operations Income needs to be healthy and in a positive cash flow. Presently, our operational income is below budget. It needs to increase significantly, so that we operate in the black and show consistency over a period of time before we can apply for a Diocesan loan. Building pledges need to be fulfilled and/or renewed, and the commitment to the Operations Budget must deepen.

3. Why don't we build a cheaper church so I can see it before I die?

The estimated cost of our Church is completely in line with other recently completed Churches. And none of us know when we are going to die (unless God has told you something not shared with anyone else).

4. Can we build a smaller Church?

The Diocese has requirements for size, and we have been encouraged to build for between 1,100 and 1,200 (in keeping with our CUP.) This is positive future planning.

5. How do I renew my pledge?

Contact Chris Smith as indicated below.

For further details and/or questions, please contact: Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or *chriss@stmoside.org*

2008 Retirement Fund for Religious \$4,521.57

2008 Christmas (to date) \$30,839.52

2009 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (to date) \$2,249.50

Collection for Week of: January 10/11, 2009

Total	S	8.139.48
Children's envelopes		13.50
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,306.00
Offertory*	\$	6,819.98
Number of Registered Households:		986

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

News from the Larger Church

Theology on Tap Series for Young Adults in Escondido—Tuesday evenings, January 20, 27, February 3, and 10 from 7:00-8:30pm at Macaroni Grill, 202 E. Via Rancho Pkwy., Escondido. For more information visit *www.yamsd.org* or contact Carrie Giebel at *cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org* or 858-490-8260.

Diocesan Institute Course in San Marcos—Tuesday, January 20-February 24, 7:00-9:30pm, at St. Mark's Church in San Marcos. Course S340 Apocalyptic Literature: Exploration of the books of Daniel and the Revelation of John, their literary genre, and their historical and faith contexts. Taught by Bernadeane Carr, S.T.L. For more information, call 858-490-8212.

Eucharistic Healing Service for Pro-Life Issues in San Marcos—Thursday, January 22, 7:00pm, at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 1147 Discovery St., San Marcos. On this day that we mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, let us come together as a faith community and pray for life, for those suffering from a past abortion or miscarriage, and for those who are suffering from terminal illness or caring for the terminally ill. It is a time to pray and ask for God's healing and to embrace life as God has planned.

Centering Prayer Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—January 23-25 with a theme of *Christ at the Center*. For more information, please call 760-757-3659 x127.

St. Augustine High School Entrance Exam in San Diego—Saturday, January 24, at 8:30am, for eighth grade boys entering the ninth grade for the 2009/2010 school year. For more information, contact Mike Haupt at 619-282-2184 or *mhaupt@sahs.org*.

Magnificat Women's Ministry Breakfast in Escondido—Saturday, January 24, 9:00am-Noon at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Come and gather together for a spirit-filled breakfast. Testimony given by Jessica Liston, a senior at Steubenville University. Young people are encouraged to attend. Bring your daughters and granddaughters to this uplifting morning. For reservations, contact Mary Carey at 760-489-5588 or www.members.cox.net/Magnificat.

Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County—will attend the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, January 25, at St. Thomas More, with luncheon following at Mimi's in Oceanside. For more information, contact Jackie Cohen at 760-7264343.

Healing Masses in Solana Beach—Wednesday, January 28, 7:00pm, with Fr. Ernesto Torres. Both Masses will be at St. James Church, 625 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach. For more information, contact Cory Graves at 858-755-8990.

Invisible Children Book Drive 2009 at Carlsbad High School—Invisible Children, a San Diego-based organization committed to promoting safety and education in Uganda, is partnering with Better World Books, a global bookstore that fundraises for literacy by selling new and used books online. By collecting books here in North County, we will be providing secondary schools in Northern Uganda with new buildings, teaching supplies, books, water purification, and more. Your donation of even one book will help us reach our goal. If you would like t o b e involved, chsinvisiblechildren@hotmail.com or call 760-908-5561 by January 29.

Annual Parent Retreat in San Marcos—January 30-February 1 at St. Mark's Parish in San Marcos. Michael Barber, Professor of Theology, Scripture, and Catholic thought at John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego, will be the guest speaker. The retreat will also include praise and worship, a healing prayer service, and opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and confession. For more information, contact Jennifer McClintock at 760-744-1130 or Jennifer@stmarksrcc.org.

2009 Diocesan Revival in San Diego—February 2, 3,and 4 at 7:00pm each evening at St. Rita Parish. This year's theme is *Preaching the Good News to All* and Fr. Henry Davis will be the preacher. The Revival is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission for African American Catholics. There is no charge and all are welcome to attend.

St. Francis School Accepting Applications—St. Francis of Assisi Parish School is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. We have a fully licensed preschool and are an accredited Kindergarten through Eighth grade school. Located in Vista just off the 78 Freeway, St. Francis School provides a strong Catholic religious education program, advanced classes, extracurricular activities, competitive school sports program, and after school care. For more information, contact www.sfs-vista.org or 760-630-7960.

St. Francis Church Online Auction Extravaganza!—Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 4, and bookmark www.catholicauctionsonline.com on your internet browser. The St. Francis Church online auction includes a variety of items such as a signed Christmas card by Greer Garson postmarked in 1940, a brand new microwave oven, crystal candle stick holders, an original painting, antiques, collectables, and so much more! Bidder registration is free and the CAO web site is managed locally to serve any Catholic organization that is seeking alternatives to fundraising! For more information, contact Julie Kaiser at jkaiser@sfs-vista.org.

Mainly Mozart Concert Series in Carlsbad—Sunday, February 15, 2:00pm, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 6628 Santa Isabel St., Carlsbad. Featuring James Ehnes, violin, Cynthia Phelps, viola, and Julie Albers, cello, performing Schubert's Trio in B flat, D. 471 and Mozart's Divertimento in E flat, K. 563. For more information, contact www.mainlymozart.com or 619-239-0100 x2.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land—Starting May 25 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.



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 760-729-9528.



Parish Contacts

Updated 11/26/08

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

Faith Formation & Evangedization Rory Griffin 414-393 Religious Education (Adults) Wayne Zych 598-9244 Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 598-1265 Little Rock Bible Studies Masako Streling 295-2594 Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 788-4100 x110 Litturgy of the Word for Children Cathy Meyer 598-7853 Sacaramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 788-4100 x110 Mid. School Youth Ministry Son & Louise Briseno 758-4100 x10 Mid. School Youth Ministry Joanna Mueller 726-5644 Evangelization Warden Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 758-4100 x130 RCIA/Adults Mario Diaz 758-7870 RCIA/Adults Mario Diaz 758-7870 RCIA/Children Beanette Marriott 434-1818 Litturg Mario Diaz 758-7870 Altar Linen Care Marge Gillen 639-1929 Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x130 Litturgical Ministries Douglas Lyun 758-4100 x130 Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 732-1414 Litturgical Ministres Douglas Lyun 758-4100 x140 Marriage & Family Life Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042 Family Services Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130 Marriage Preparation Rev Michael Ratajczak 758-4100 x130	Suzee Irwin 597-2706				
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Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor					
Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor	Pastoral Staff				
Deacon Tom Goeltz	michaelr@stmoside.org				
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Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate	thomast@stmoside.org				
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation					
Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers					
Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers					
Stacey Griffin Faith Formation Office Assistant 758-4100 x 110	org, louiseb@stmoside.org				
Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries758-4100 x140					
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director					
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development					
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance					
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary					
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper					
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician	. torrained@stmoside.org				

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