

The figures in our Nativity set were donated over the years by Parishioners.



This space will be featuring different memories from our history each week.

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

#### Spirituality † Tradition † Community

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

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

#### Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5:00pm Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am

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

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

#### January 2, 2011 • The Epiphany of the Lord

### Pastor's Column

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

#### Gifts of the Magi

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This day celebrates the manifestation of the infant Jesus as the one given by God not just to and for the Jews but for the entire human race. The celebration of Epiphany actually predates the celebration of Christmas by several hundred years.

The astrologers who have traveled from the East are non-Jews and the "intelligentsia" of that day and time. Yet, they find their way to Bethlehem and to the "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" and along with poor Jewish shepherds worship the One sent by God.

These "Wise Men" offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts that already in this infancy narrative (Matthew 2) foretell who this Jesus is and what will happen to him.

GOLD is the gift given to royalty. He is King and God!

The Hebrew word for incense is derived from a verb meaning "to cause to smoke" and is used to denote the smoke from a sacrifice burnt on the altar (1 Samuel 2:15-16; Psalms 66:15). There were two types of incense; one consisted entirely of frankincense (Leviticus 2:1,15) and was used in conjunction with certain meal offerings.

The incense of FRANKINCENSE together with a handful of fine flour mixed with oil was offered on the outer altar of the sanctuary. Frankincense was also an ingredient of the offering of the showbread (Leviticus 24:7). This Jesus will be sacrificed and will be offered up on our behalf and is bread for us!

The use of scents and ointments was very necessary in the primitive hygienic conditions of the ancient world. In private life,

(Continued on page 2)

The Parish Office and Blessed Sacrament Chapel will reopen on Tuesday January 4.

# Our Mission is to: worship God,

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am; Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am; watch bulletin for holydays

#### Rite of Reconciliation (Confession):

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

 $\textbf{Eucharistic Adoration:}\ Monday-Friday,\ 6:30am-7:30pm$ 

**Liturgical Ministry:** Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

#### Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized:

Contact Parish Office at 760-758-4100 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 760-758-4100 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:** 8:30am 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 760-758-4100 x110 or kathleenb@stmoside.org.

### and serve God's people in word and deed.

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

For further information, see page 10, or call Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.

#### **Pastor's Column** (Continued from page 1)

perfumes and spices were used as ingredients in perfumed oils, ointments, and powders, for cosmetic purposes, to protect the skin from the heat of the sun and the dry air, and in medicine. No less important was the role they played in the religious rituals of the ancient Near East.

MYRRH was one of the most important perfumes in biblical times. It was used in the preparation of the oil with which kings were anointed (Exodus 30:23-24). It was a precious gift and much used by women (Proverbs 7:17; Esther 2:12; Song of Songs 4:14). Together with aloes it was used in preparing Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39).

Myrrh is extracted by means of incisions in the bark of a small tree that grows in tropical Africa and Arabia.

This Jesus who is King, God, and "Bread For Us" will be sacrificed and will die for us!

On this Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the manifestation of Jesus to the world as God's gift of love to us. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God shows us how completely we are loved: "In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another." (1 John 4:9-11)

The gift given to us is meant to be shared with others!

Happy Epiphany!

# hit

#### Opportunity to Help Local Families in Need



North County Solutions for Change women and children's shelter needs volunteers for meal preparation, servers, and donations (food and paper goods). STM has committed to providing one meal per month for this ministry. In this way we answer the call of Jesus to feed the hungry, and this is in our neighborhood. Any help you can provide is welcome!

#### 2011 DATES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

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

Organizations as well as individuals are invited to participate with portions or entire meal preparation, drinks, desserts, and/or monetary contributions to offset the cost for those able to cook. Please prayerfully consider which month(s) you are able to help with this important ministry.

For more information, contact Paul & Kalei Mendiola at 760-945-9042 or *kaleiann@sbcglobal.net*.

#### St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive

Please save your warm clothing and blankets for our St. Bonaventure collection scheduled for January 29-30! This Navajo reservation in New Mexico is in great need and all things warm are welcomed by them! Thank you.

#### Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, January 2 (20) The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2.7-8.10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12 Monday, January 3 (212) The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 John 3:22–4:6 Psalm 2:7-8,10-12a Matthew 4:12-17,23-25 Tuesday, January 4 (213) Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious 1 John 4:7-10 Psalm 72:1-4,7-8 Mark 6:34-44 Wednesday, January 5 (214) John Neumann, bishop 1 John 4:11-18 Psalm 72:1-2,10,12-13 Mark 6:45-52 Thursday, January 6 (215) André Bessette, religious 1 John 4:19–5:4bc Psalm 72:1-2,14-15,17 Luke 4:14-22a Friday, January 7 (216) Raymond of Peñafort, priest 1 John 5:5-13 Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 Luke 5:12-16 Saturday, January 8 (217) 1 John 5:14-21 Psalm 149:1-6a,9b John 3:22-30 Sunday, January 9 (21) The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10 Acts 10:34-38

#### **Mass Intentions**

Matthew 3:13-17

Saturday, January 1, 9:30am Mr. & Mrs. Richard Messina

Saturday, January 1, 5:00pm Helen Troiano 🕆

Lilian Hills

Max Isaac

Sue Johnston

Eileen Jones

Helen Kuhn

Paul Kennedy

Debbie Kinney

Sr. Anne Kremenik

The Lamelin Family

Lillian Lachance

Bernie Lanzrath

Brandon LeBlanc

Cassandra Loretto

James MacArthur

Lydia Mangahas

Bob McWilliams

Lorraine Micallef

Nancy Marley

Lauren Loretto

Vickie Hitchock

Sunday, January 2, 8:30am

Kathleen Whitaker Sunday, January 2, 10:30am

Terry Adams ₽ Tuesday, January 4, 8:15am

Ken Swift Wednesday, January 5, 8:15am

Anna Mattei 🕏 Thursday, January 6, 8:15am

Raymond Summer 4

Friday, January 7, 5:00pm Thomas Martin &

Saturday, January 8, 5:00pm Marjorie Jacobson &

Sunday, January 9, 8:30am Joseph Alesi 🕆

Sunday, January 2, 10:30am Anthony Ryan &

#### **Prayer List**

Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

Laura Allenfort The Allison Family Lucia Ambriz Mary Balli Patricia Barbour Cindra Bell John Bennici Regina Bentz Roseanne Berg George "Whitey" Betus Bruce Bousquet Tamara Bousquet The Bower Family Lynda Brady Monica Broussard Janet Brown Shelby Campbell Claudia Caplinger The Carrothers Family The Caserta Family Paul Cassidy Flor Catap & Family Lolly Cervantes Pat Čhristopherson Paul Cipowski Dick Clarke Lee Coccaro Dolly Cole Carl Coleman James Coleman The Cope Family Thomas Cornwell & Family Karen Flaharty Daley Cecilia & Bernard DeSimone Judith DiMatteo The Doering Family Linda Dossman Kathryn Ernst Bob & Boo Falconer The Fiore Family Peggy & Jack Fischer Eileen Flood Ryan Flum The Fonseca Family Paul & Mai Vo & Family Matthew Foster Kevin Watson-Graff Kathryn Franklin John Whitton Joe Freire Elizabeth and Debbie Winters Carmen Garcia Rick Gonzalez Eileen Gough Jeffrey Guyer Rosemary Haeffelin Anita Hage Susan Hallahan The Harker Family Rita Harnacker

Carol Michael Harold & Barbara Miller June Mitchell The Molony & Mangahas Families Nancy Moore Margie Myers Cosmo Nocida R. Northrup Helen O'Connell Heidi Olson Lupe Casas Pelletier Helen Pingtella Reuben & Evi Quinn Otila Quiroz Jack Riley Rita Ritchie Joanne Robinson Maria Rogers Sr. Loyola Romey Dorothy Rouse The Russo Family Nancy Scali Linda Schmidt The Douglas E. Schulte Family Freda Schweitzer Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea Elizabeth Shirzad Richard Sikora Jeanne Sisson Mike Snyder Nick Soltau Martha Sosa Gilda Spiegl Leah Stevens The Stringer Family Pete Sullivan Maria Surmenidis David Sweet Stephen Toth, Jr. Laurie Updyke Barbara Üpson Arnie Velasco Dominic Vienna, Jr. Vanessa Vitiello-Koble

#### **Deployed Military**

As a faith community let us pray for all who serve our country in these troubled times. We pray especially for those connected to our Parish who have been deployed:

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr. Capt. Sean M. Barnes, USAF 1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC Major Robert Bechtold, USMC PFC John Brandone PFC Jonathan Chasteler Corp. Willie Deel Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC SSGT Julian Fyffe, USMC MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC 2nd LT Robert K. Gervasio, USMC Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF PVT2 Tyler Timmerman, US Army LT Billy Turley, USN Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

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

#### **Calendar Highlights**

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

#### The Week Ahead

| 1116  | Week Alleud             |
|-------|-------------------------|
| Jan 2 | Liturgy of the Word for |
|       | Children at 8:30am and  |
|       | 10:30am Masses          |
| Jan 7 | Eucharistic Exposition  |
| Jan 8 | Adult CPR/AED Class     |
| Jan 9 | Knights of Columbus     |
|       | Breakfast               |
| Jan 9 | RE.A.CH High School     |
|       | Classes                 |

#### The Month Ahead

| 1116 1110 | mm Ameud                 |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Jan 10    | Women's Guild Luncheon   |
| Jan 11-12 | Restaurant Fundraiser at |
|           | Chili's                  |
| Jan 15    | Adult CPR/AED Class      |
| Jan 16    | RE.A.CH Classes at       |
|           | Church, including high   |
|           | school                   |
| Jan 22    | Adult CPR/AED Class      |
| Jan 23    | New Member Reception     |
| Jan 29    | Liturgical Ministers     |
|           | Workshop                 |
| Jan 29-30 | St. Bonaventure Indian   |
|           | Mission Clothing Drive   |

#### Next Year

| <b></b>                 |
|-------------------------|
| Women's Ministry (new   |
| date)                   |
| Women's Guild           |
| Fashion Show (new date) |
| Knights of Columbus     |
| Breakfast               |
| Confirmation            |
| Vacation Bible Camp     |
| ons? Contact Henny at   |
| 60-758-4100 x100        |
| ınyj@stmoside.org.      |
|                         |

#### **Pray for Women Religious**

Please join us in praying for the women religious who serve in the Diocese of San Diego. They have been assigned to days of the year in alphabetical order.

| January 03                  |
|-----------------------------|
| Sr. Helen Louise Lacey, CSJ |
| January 04                  |
| Sr. Anita Lapeyre, RSCJ     |
| January 05                  |
| Sr. Shaun Marie Larkin, SBL |
| January 06                  |
| Sr. Mary Anthony Layson, MC |
| January 07                  |
| Sr. Juliet Lee, RSCJ        |
| January 08                  |
| Sr. Rosemarie Leier, MMS    |
| January 09                  |
| Sr. Helen Lembeck, MMS      |

#### Announcing the Baptism of

Jude Simon Barela Zachary Supnet on January 2, 2011



Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

#### In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Pat** Cope, who died on December 22. Funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep Pat's family in your prayers.

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

# Winners of the Betty Dorsa Christmas Raffle \$200 Nancy Lansdowne \$300 Pauline Lapre \$400 Nancy Busse \$500 Dean McCoy

#### Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moments—Perhaps the most successful way of keeping a marriage fresh is to try new things together. This can be taking up a new hobby, going to the opera for the first time, or even cooking a new meal together. The key is to avoid boredom—the daily grind, the same old routine, a depressing rut... we could go on. Anything that breaks the monotony is great for your relationship and your chances of long term happiness. This year, do something new together each week.

**Parenting Pointers**—New Year's resolutions are not for adults only. Even young children can be taught to make positive changes, particularly those related to their health, behavior, and safety.

For more information, visit *www.diocese-sdiego.org* and click on Ministries, Marriage & Family Life or contact Jen Frost at 760-758-4100 x100.

#### Thank You Spirited Seniors!

The Church of St. Thomas More is very grateful to the Spirited Seniors for their recent \$300 donation to the Parish. The dedication of this vibrant group of seniors is evident on many levels of ministry at STM, and this monetary contribution is a big help with our overall efforts as we move forward with our build-out plans! Ad multos annos! —Fr. Mike Ratajczak

#### STM \$crip News

The "Scrip Store" at the Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 22 until Tuesday, January 4.

#### Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways!

- 1. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
- 2. Online at *www.stmoside.org*, click on Contact Us, then click on Scrip
- 3. Email at scrip@stmoside.org
- 4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

Orders may be picked up after Mass on the weekend or at the Parish Office during the week.



From Left to Right: Brandon, Maggie, Mark, Rose, Kyle, Katy, Tim, Amanda, Nick, Mellissa, Gabe, and Jade. Missing: Natalie and Eryk

Hello from St. Paul Minnesota! For those of you who don't know who I am, my name is Kyle Schanzenbach, I'm 19 years old and I'm on a Youth Ministry Program called NET (National Evangelization Teams), which works all over the country and in different parts of the world as well.

NET this year has ten teams. Seven teams travel throughout the country doing ministry work for young people, mostly putting on retreats. Two of the teams are stationed in Parishes that request them, specifically for the youth of that Parish. They do Relational Ministry, which means that the team runs all the youth events at a particular Parish, and the goal is to teach the Parish how to run the Youth Program by itself over the course of three years. The two teams are stationed in Hastings and Lakeville, Minnesota, not thirty minutes from St. Paul.

The Home Team, which is the team I am on this year, is very much like a traveling team, usually going to nearby states like Kentucky, South Dakota, Wisconsin, as well as serving the NET Center in West St. Paul for events such as the Gathering and Lifeline. However, this year the Home Team is also piloting two new programs for NET Ministries. Every week, four members of the Home Team travel to Providence Academy, a Catholic Elementary, Middle, and High School for young people. The school requested a NET Team to come in and show the youth that our faith isn't just a subject, it's something we all need to live out in our daily lives. Meanwhile, the other ten members of the Home Team, in addition to their regular duties, are also piloting the other new program, NET Nights. These are Youth Groups that meet once a month at St. Michael Parish in St. Cloud, Minnesota, which is about an hour and a half away from St. Paul.

Each member of the team has a different job that helps the team life and retreats run smoothly. A normal Traveling or Parish Team has 10-12 jobs. The Home Team, however, has around 36 jobs to pass around to everyone, since we run everything on our weekend retreats at the NET Center. For example, my job when we are at the NET Center is to make sure all the sound equipment is working and that it is all set up for Retreats and Lifelines. This year I am actually the Drama Leader, which second to the Team Leaders is one of the toughest jobs on the team. I have to direct and put together all the dramas that we use on Retreat. I love it, I love my Team, and I love God!

Please consider offering NET your prayer and financial support. NET is a non-profit lay youth ministry. Charitable gifts make up close to 70% of NET's annual revenue and are vital to NET's continuation each year. To make a donation, visit www.netusa.org and click on Support NET or send checks to:

NET Ministries, 110 Crusader Ave. W., West St. Paul, MN 55118.

Thank you all for your support! If you want more information, you can email me at *kyleschanzenbachster@gmail.com* or call me at 760-216-0995.

Sincerely, Kyle Schanzenbach

#### Little Rock Bible Study

Starting Wednesday, January 12, at 9:00am or Thursday, January 13, at 7:00pm, please join us for ten sessions as Matthew presents Jesus' story, teaching, and opportunity for Christian discipleship. Sign-up forms are available at the information table on the Plaza after weekend Masses or in the Parish Office during the week.

#### **Quilting News**

Everyone interested in joining the Quilters Group is welcome. We will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month, begining on January 6, at 10:00am in the lower level of the Parish Center.

For more information, contact Nancy Wozniak at 760-729-0782.

#### **Women's Guild News**

Board Meeting—Monday, January 3, at 10:00am at Valerie's.

January Chinese Auction—Start collecting those items you have and never use, things you have won or been given that don't quite work with your décor, and keep an eye out for that odd Christmas gift from Aunt Agatha. Bring them January 10 to our annual Chinese auction and watch the fun as our dynamic duo of Nancy Wozniak and Elaine Weiler try to figure out what everything is as they draw the winning numbers. All this and a great luncheon for just \$8.

**February 5 Fashion Show and Luncheon**—Mark this date for our fashion show at Shadowridge Country Club. Tickets will be available at the January 10 meeting and after Masses the last three weekends in January.

# The Future Church—How Ten Trends Are Revolutionizing the Catholic Church

John L. Allen, Jr., author, is the Vatican correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter* and a Vatican analyst for CNN and National Public Radio. His weekly Internet column, *All Things Catholic*, is widely considered the best source of breaking news and analysis of the Catholic Church in the English language.

As part of our Adult Faith Formation Program for this year, I will be leading and facilitating a discussion on this book. We will gather on three Wednesdays at 7:00pm—January 19, February 9, and March 2.

We will walk through the book in this fashion:

#### Wednesday, January 19

The Introduction; Trend One: A World Church; Trend Two: Evangelical Catholicism; Trend Three: Islam; Trend Four: The New Demography

#### Wednesday, February 9

Trend Five: Expanding Lay Roles; Trend Six: The Biotech Revolution; Trend Seven: Globalization; Trend Eight: Ecology

#### Wednesday, March 2

Trend Nine: Multipolarism; Trend Ten: Pentecostalism; Trends That Aren't; Catholicism in the Twenty-First Century

I encourage you to purchase the book if you haven't already, and begin reading. The book is available at the Information Table on the Plaza on the weekends and in the Parish Office during the week.

Our discussion of this book promises to create some lively dialogue as we look to the future of our Church!

—Fr. Mike

# Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together! Phase II ~ Our Permanent Church

#### St. Thomas More, pray for us!

#### Pledge Statistics as of December 20

|               |                                       | # of Families |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Ph      | ase II Responses                      | Responding    |
|               | ledge at this time have been adopted) | 34            |
|               | Under \$100                           | 22            |
|               | \$100 and up                          | 209           |
|               | \$1,000 and up                        | 82            |
|               | \$1,500 and up                        | 133           |
|               | \$2,500 and up                        | 86            |
|               | \$4,500 and up                        | 31            |
|               | \$6,000 and up                        | 19            |
|               | \$10,000 and up                       | 20            |
|               | \$25,000 and up                       | 3             |
|               | \$50,000 and up                       | 2             |
| Total to Date | \$1,478,521                           | 641           |
| Still Needed  | \$521,479                             | 372           |
| Total Goal    | \$2,000,000                           | 1,013         |



- † All gifts are welcome and needed to reach our goal by December 2011. This campaign was infused with positive energy with the joyous news from the Bishop on October 17 that we would be given a loan for our build out! We rejoice and continue to pray for everyone to come aboard to ensure our success!
- † If you can afford \$1, \$5, \$10, \$15, or more, per week or per month, please submit this to help with this effort! When everyone does something, progress is made. EVERY gift is important and none is too small.
- † Thanks to all of our donors! We need to hear from all our households, even if you are unable to donate, but to pray for our success at this time!
- † Won't it be great to celebrate Christmas Mass in our new permanent Church?! And all other Masses as well!!!

Packets are available after all Masses, at the Parish Office, and on our website:

www.stmoside.org; click on Our New Church.

Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development 760-758-4100 x120 or *chriss@stmoside.org* 

# Liturgy & Music



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

#### FROM CRIB TO CROSS

#### Christmas, with its toys, is over

by Melissa Musick Nussbaum from Celebration January 2011 by permission

#### **Help Wanted**

The Liturgy
Office seeks a
volunteer to
contact people
who offer Mass
intentions two
weeks before
the Mass is
celebrated to
remind them.

Judy Buoniconti is stepping down after four years of service.

Please contact Douglas if you are interested.

#### Upcoming Music

JANUARY 9 Baptism of the Lord

5:00pm Mass

Cantor & Congregation

8:30am Mass

Praise Team

10:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

The King Tut Exhibition is in Denver. My grandson's first grade class is learning about the boy king, who was entombed in a solid-gold coffin weighing nearly 250 pounds. Forget the gold. Luc likes the scarabs found near the coffin because he likes saying "dung beetle." Poop and bugs; it doesn't get any better than that.

I remember taking our son Andrew to see an exhibit on Aztec life when he was Luc's age. I read the commentary printed alongside each picture or diorama or artifact while Andrew watched and wondered.

A few days later, I walked into Andrew's room. He had built a Legoblock tower, a pyramid with a flat top, from which he was pushing a Lego-block man down the step-like side and onto the floor.

"What are you doing?" I asked. "Playing human sacrifice," he answered.

To this day, what Andrew remembers about the trip to the museum in Denver is the "very cool" exhibit depicting an Aztec priest removing the still-beating heart of the sacrificial victim and then sending the body over the side of the temple/pyramid.

Besides the jasper and carnelian "dung beetles," Luc is hoping to see the toy boat his teacher told him archaeologists found in Tut's tomb. It is a toy boat for a boy king, a royal toy for a royal child, the trappings of a life that would continue, in station and rank, unchanged into the next.

Luc tells me, "He has a toy boat because they believe in the afterlife."

Luc is enchanted by the promise of not just everlasting life, but everlasting toys. Me, too.

I think of the bumper-sticker creed "He who dies with the most toys wins," and I think of my own faithfulness in its service.

Still, I feel the need to state what I believe, if not necessarily practice. I say, "We believe in the afterlife, too. We call it heaven. But we don't believe that kings here will be kings in heaven. We believe that a person can be very poor on earth, can have no house or car or food, and be so filled with God's love, so filled with faith in God, that in heaven her true wealth will be revealed. She will be like a queen, but a queen because of how much she *loved*, not how much she *had*."

I cannot promise celestial Legos. I see the disappointment on Luc's face. He's thinking of King Tut, who, though he had to die, still got to keep the toy boat.

I am a veteran of these conversations. I know that Luc, like all the small children in my care, has not mastered the playbook. He speaks simply of what he wants and loves, and, in first grade, they are mostly the same thing.

I have as many desires as Luc, but, unlike Luc, I am fluent in pious talk. I know how to turn the fully equipped candy-apple-red SUV into a "safe car for driving my mother on her errands." Airbags and backup monitors, get it?

I think of how we delight in Matthew's account of the magi kneeling before the child king Jesus. But it isn't the kneeling, really, it's the gifts, and the way our own excess has been grandfathered in by the helpful Easterners. They come bringing royal gifts for a royal child.

In our family crèche, the porcelain gold, frankincense, and myrrh are



glued into the porcelain hands of the visitors. Try to knock off one of the gifts and a hand would likely follow. They're inseparable.

I stand at the crèche and wonder if anyone brought a gift for a human child. Because I hope Jesus did love his toys. I hope he delighted in a spinning top or a toy boat.

Still, however much the child Jesus loves his toys, he leaves them behind. He leaves behind every material possession, even his clothes. And there is nothing in the Gospels to suggest Jesus notices that he is naked, and should, like Adam hiding from God, be ashamed. The gamblers playing for his cloak take notice of the clothing, but Jesus does not.

It is clear that Jesus neither needs nor desires a Tut-like solid-gold coffin or gold sandals for his dead feet. He sees, and seeks, something else, something beyond money, beyond position, beyond caste and class.

I want that something, too. Or, at least, I want to want it. I suspect the "childish things" Saint Paul says he learned to put away are all the toys we want to carry around with us through this life and the next. It is January. The needles on the tree are drying. The magi have reached their places next to the little family. The freshly chalked Epiphany blessing is above the front door. We sense—and the church knows—that it is time to move forward, from the crib, toward the cross.

### Friday, January 7 ♦ 9:00am - 7:30pm

# EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FEAST OF ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT

We pray...that we will abide in love.

# **Faith Formation**



Kathleen Bell Director of Faith Formation kathleenb@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x110

#### CATHOLICISM 101

Are you looking for a way to learn more about the doctrines, practices, and traditions of the Catholic Church, so that you will feel more confident about discussing your faith and answering questions about Catholicism from family and friends?

Would you like to have an opportunity to share faith with other Parishioners, learning what their faith means to them and how it helps them cope with life's challenges?

#### CATHOLICISM 101 is the answer!

The first session is this Tuesday, January 4, from 7:00-8:30pm on the lower level of the Parish Center. Sign up after Mass and get your materials.

This course also prepares those over 18 for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

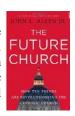
Call Jim or Marilyn Day, 760-509-4545 for more information.



#### Fr. Mike's Bookies

Fr. Mike will lead the discussion on *The Future* **Church** over three months beginning January 19. It is an interesting read, but it takes time to digest and absorb.

It is available at the front desk or the Faith Formation Office for \$20. FUTURE Consider reading it for your own CHURCH broader perspective on the Catholic Church: where it has come from and where it is going. Also see page 5.





# Today is a RE.A.CH day at Home Next Church Session: Jan. 16 Check your Annual Plan for Home Sessions

#### PBJ Update

Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center



2011 Goal: 365 Collected to date: 85

# YOUTH MINISTRY

(Encrypting People in Christ) Middle School

As we begin this new year EPIC is moving to Sunday Nights from 5:00-6:30, January 9th. (We will meet on the opposite Sundays from RE.A.CH.)

Put this on your calendar and tell your parents! out and have a great time with us, and don't be afraid to bring your friends!

Happy New Year!

## **High School**

#### **▼** IGNITE

Can you believe that it is 2011??? We will NOT be meeting tomorrow, but please join us on Monday, January 10! Every High School teen is welcomed and encouraged to experience our faith in a whole new way. Let's start the new year off right and go on a journey with God and his love! yourself, bring your high school brothers and sisters, bring your friends, and bring an open heart that wants to laugh and love. See you there!

### RESTORED

JANUARY RETREAT - FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS (THAT ARE CONFIRMED) AND LEAD! IT IS ONLY 3 WEEKS AWAY!

(these caps mean that I am shouting it in a very loving way!)

If you need the opportunity to get back into your faith, for some time away to discover your relationship with God, here it is! We will be having a special retreat

#### January 21 - 23, 2011.

This retreat will draw you closer to our Lord and allow you to see your faith in a whole new way before you leave for college or that next step after high school. Call Marc to sign up or for more information, fliers can be found in front of Marc's Office and on the Parish website.

### 🗗 LEAD

#### Leadership Team

We need LEADers in our Parish, community and our world. We will be meeting at the start of the new year on Tuesday, January 4. If you want to get involved and make a difference in our community, if you are Confirmed, if you are a young adult, if you are in college and have the desire to do more with your faith, come join us Tuesday at 7:00pm for LEAD. We are building and fostering an environment that is in love with God, let's do something amazing. Do not be afraid!

### **▼** Confirmation Class, 2011

Are you working on the information due January 9th? We begin with Breakfast and Mass on that date as well.

# Stewardship & Development



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

# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP We're all in this together . . .

Live music fascinates me. Unable to play myself, I become enrapt watching a great artist infuse music with emotion while mastering the correct notes in perfect timing. A great performance moves me.



It can teach us about stewardship too! This is especially true in watching a handbell choir perform. The transcendence of the music and the message of stewardship are unmistakable: we have a note to play in the beautiful music of Christian community. See the similarities:

#### \* Individuality

Each ringer is independent, but inextricably a member of the group. All are needed, no one is left out.

#### **※** Distinction

Each person's contribution is distinct as the highs and lows of the notes are struck. Our God-created uniqueness shines forth.

#### \* Chair

An individual cannot make music alone. Only together is harmony created.

#### \* Importance

Every single ringer is vital. No one is more or less important than another.

#### **\*** Togetherness

The group must move together as a whole or the music doesn't ring out.

#### **<b>\*** Faction

In some pieces, a subset of ringers moves in another direction, but always returns bringing resolution to the musical tension.

#### **※ Direction**

To achieve unity, the group needs direction. A visionary director brings out the best in everyone.

#### \* Choir and Director

It's tempting to think that the director is everything. But without the choir, the director accomplishes nothing.

Call it the musical parable of stewardship: God directs a choir resounding to use our time, talent, and treasure to bring about his Kingdom. —Parish Publishing, Stewardship December 2010, with permission

# **Opportunity Knocks! Hospitality Ministers (a.k.a. Ushers)**

- Greet fellow worshipers as they arrive and later as they as they leave.
- † Hand out worship aids/collect them after Mass.
- † Help with the Offertory Collection.
- † Assist with seating, directions to restrooms, etc.
- † Distribute bulletins at the end of Mass.

To be a vital part of our welcome spirit at STM please contact: Douglas Lynn, 760-758-4100 x140 or douglasl@stmoside.org

### STM 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!

All we need is clear title. Non-operational is OK!

Since 2006 we have netted over \$21,000 from this program. Thank you donors!









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For more information, contact the Parish Office: 760-758-4100 ×100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

Christmas 2010 Collection (to date) \$25,044,29

"Did You Know?" December 2010 \$6,513.00

Restaurant Fundraiser December 2010 (Rubio's) \$215.38

2010 National Needs Collection \$1,639.54

# Collection for Week of December 26, 2010 Number of Registered Households

 Offertory\*
 \$ 5,664.04

 Offertory (Loose Collection)
 1,095.00

 Children's envelopes
 0.00

 Total
 \$ 6,759.04

Offertory envelopes, credit card withdrawals, automatic checking or savings account deductions (credit card and automatic bank account withdrawals are posted at STM on the 5th and/or 20th of each month).

#### 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) and automatic checking/savings account deduction. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or parish office@stmoside.org.

#### St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

Any St. Francis Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Thomas More will be returned to St. Francis.

Any St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Francis will be returned to St. Thomas More.

# **News from the Larger Church**

**Volunteer Tutors Needed**—Young African immigrant woman needs help in math and science for college entrance qualification. To volunteer, call Sr. Jean or Sr. Sheila at 760-917-2058.

**St. Patrick Catholic School in Carlsbad**—accepting applications for the 2011-2012 academic year (kindergarteneighth grade). For more information, contact 760-729-1333 x105 or *www.stpaddys.org*.

Retreats and Presentations at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—For more information, contact 760-757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

**Young Adult Ministry Activities in San Diego County**—Visit *www.yamsd.org* for complete information on events for young adults, including a *Theology on Tap* in January.

Women's Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Join Fr. Larry Dolan, OFM, on Saturday, January 8, 10:00am-1:00pm for a Women's Spiritual Day of Reflection. At the beginning of a new year, we will contemplate the tension between the old and the new, the issues of conservative and progressive in the Church and the world today. \$20 includes lunch. For more information, contact 760-757-3659 or visit www.sanluisrey.org.

Serenity Retreat with Fr. Tom Weston, SJ, at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—January 28-30, for men and women in recovery from alcoholism and addiction. For more information, contact 760-757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Retreat for Widowed, Divorced, and Separated Persons at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside—January 28-30. A trained team of peers leads participants through a healing and growth experience. For further information, call Cathy at 619-222-9093

or Maureen at 619-447-0622.

Healing Ministry in Solana Beach—St. James Healing Ministry offers Healing Prayer in either the Adoration Chapel or the Church at the following times: Every Sunday after the 9:00am Mass; First Mondays from 9:00-10:00am.; Second Tuesdays from 6:00-7:15pm, and on Third Saturdays after the 5:00 pm Mass. The next Healing Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, at 7:00pm, preceded by music and testimony at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

**Separated/Divorced Support Group in Solana Beach**—If you are in pain from a separation or divorce, please consider joining our support group. We meet 10:15am Sunday mornings at St. James Catholic Church Ministry Center Offices, 625 S. Nardo, Solana Beach. For additional information please contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or *fwgrant@earthlink.net*.

#### **Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County**

We are a group of Catholic widowed men and women encompassing all of North County. Our general meeting and potluck is held the second Sunday of each month (next is January 9 at a member's home in Oceanside). On the fourth Sunday of each month, we meet at various Catholic churches in North County for Mass—the next one being at St. Thomas More on January 23 followed by brunch at Mimi's. Prospective members are welcome at any of our activities. For more information, contact Gerri Wilmott at 760-758-9949 or Carol Kope 760-726-0533.

# News from St. Francis Church—Our Neighbor



#### Making friends for a lifetime

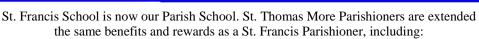
St. Francis Catholic School

More than just another friend, student
relationships built at St. Francis School are
grown in Christ as Catholics sharing common
ground beyond the classroom.

Come celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 31 – February 4

Tours available in the mornings. Bring your child for a class visit.

760-630-7960 www.sfs-vista.org



- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,

- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.





#### **Parish Contacts**

Updated 01/02/11

Council Chairs: Pastoral-Doug D'Agrosa 760-941-6800 • Finance-Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 • Development-Ron Briseno 760-726-4496

| Pastoral Council Committees                                     |   |
|---|---|
| Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939       | Brother Benno's Collections                                       |
| Religious Education (Adults)Wayne Zych 760-598-9244             | Brother Benno's Kitchen ServersGeorge Jones 760-940-9288          |
| Small Church Communities  | Christmas Angel MinistryJohn & Marti Harper 760-724-1181          |
| Little Rock Bible Studies                                       | Culture of LifeJane Kelleher 760-822-7041                         |
| Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110  | CPR/AED Classes Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414                      |
| Liturgy of the Word for Children Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853       | Disability FacilitationAnn Eriksson 760-599-7151                  |
| Sacramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110         | Faith Works Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131                   |
| Mid. Sch. Youth Ministry Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161        | Fraternity & Michaelle HouseDiantha Zschoche 760-685-0081         |
| High School Youth Ministry Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161      | Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice                           |
| Young Adult Ministry Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161            |   |
| Women's MinistryJoleen Schanzanbach 760-806-6722                | Jail MinistryRita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100                      |
| Men's MinistryJohn Fredette 760-758-1973                        | JustFaith Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131                     |
| Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530 |   |
| Evangelization  | More's WorkersJerry Gayvert 760-295-0645                          |
| Vocations   | North County Solutions for Change (NCSC)                          |
| RCIA  | Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431                              |
| LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022                               | Prayer Request LinePat Wong 760-806-1310                          |
| Altar Linen Care  | Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180                                       |
| Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131     | Project Linus   |
| Environment & ArtMary Castle 760-727-3097                       | Sick & Homebound ( <i>Eucharist</i> ) Jean McCloskey 760-643-2363 |
| Eucharistic Adoration   | Sister Parish Program Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131         |
| Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414         | Social Justice  |
| Liturgical MinistriesDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140             | St. Bonaventure Mission Knights of Columbus 760-734-1934          |
| Liturgical MusicDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140                  | Office Support  |
| Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 760-758-4100 x100              | General Support   |
| ACTTS Young AdultsJen Frost actts@stmoside.org                  | Chair Set-UpLorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102                    |
|   | Kitchen Overseer Agnes Bolsakov 760-473-8461                      |
| Family Services Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100        | Development Council Committees                                    |
| Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100   | Annual Catholic AppealFlora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100             |
| Widows & Widowers of North CountyCarol Kope 760-726-0533        | Capital CampaignBill Ipsen 760-723-0402                           |
|   | New Construction Brian Leahey 760-598-5697                        |
| Parish Organizations & Events Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505   | Parish Membership Louise Briseno 760-726-4496                     |
| Golf Classic  | Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120                      |
| Historian Anne Marshall 760-727-2668                            | Publicity/Public RelationsAnne Marshall 760-727-2668              |
| Knights of Columbus   | Sacrificial Giving/TithingPaul Ibbetson 760-734-1051              |
| Spirited Seniors  | Scrip Sales Theresa Goeltz 760-453-2876                           |
| Women's GuildValerie Thompson 760-630-1703                      | Stewardship   |
| Social Ministries Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431          | Vehicle DonationsVlad Bolsakov 760-758-4100 x100                  |
| Blood DriveLinda Dicus 760-726-5081                             | Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120                    |
| Bereavement Follow-up SupportLinda Dicus 760-726-5081           |   |
| Pasto   | ral Staff   |
| Rev. Michael Rataiczak, Pastor                                  | 760-758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org                           |
| Deacon Tom Goeltz   | ,   |
| Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate                           | e e   |
| Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation                      |   |
| Marc Raymundo, Youth Advocate                                   |   |
| Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant                | 760-758-4100 x110 staceyg@stmoside.org                            |
| Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music                     | 760-758-4100 x140 douglasl@stmoside.org                           |
| Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director                           | 760-758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org                             |
| Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist                           |   |
| Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development            |   |
| Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance                             |   |
| Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary                           | /60-/58-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org                             |
| Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper                                    |   |
| Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician                      |   |
|   | n Advantia and  |

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