



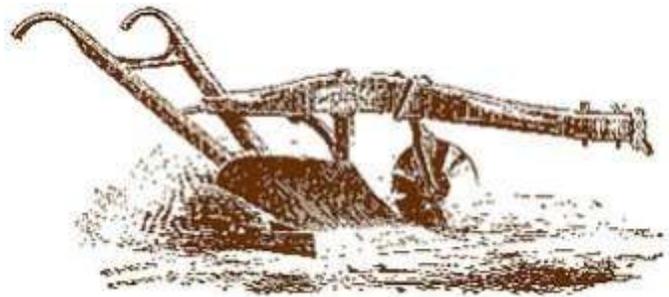
The Bells of Saint Mary

April 2011

With My Hand on the Plow: Easter

As I write this, I am preparing for the funeral service for Sally Goetsch today at 3 pm. When we were planning the service, picking the hymns and such, I talked to Deborah about the service I was putting together. My questions all had to do with **doing a funeral in the middle of Lent...and Deborah said to me: It is an Easter service.** Lent is a season, Easter comes every day.

Easter comes every day. What a **wonderful thing she said...what wisdom.** And so, today, in the midst of our season of self-reflection and examination, we will celebrate Easter at the Celebration of Life and Ministry of Sally Jane Goetsch. And I think **that is what I should write about for this edition of the Bells of St. Mary's.**



On April 24th, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at two services, one at 8 in the morning and one at 10:30. Please remember that the late service will **not be at 10 like our regular Sunday service time...but will be a half hour later.** We do this because so many folks come to the early service that we want time **between the services for the parking lot to empty and fill again...and for the choir to have an opportunity to warm up their voices.** Also, being the last Sunday of the

Inside this issue:

[Red Shirt Project](#)

[Annual Tea Announcement](#)

[How Could I Forget God? \(Howard Gould\)](#)

[Your Vestry Speaks](#)

[Buildings and Grounds](#)

[April Birthdays/Work Party](#)

[Financial Statement](#)

[Bede the Bat](#)

[Prayers of the People](#)

month, our Easter Sunday 10:30 service will be a service led by our children.

This tradition that we have begun on the last Sunday of every month has been a wonderful **change for us here at St. Mary's**. So many of you have remarked how enjoyable it is to be in worship with our children leading us. So many of you have said how well you listen and hear the readings when our kids are the ones offering them. And almost everyone who has spoken to me about the services have been moved by my inviting the children to share the altar with me as we celebrate the Eucharist together. Imagine how wonderful this will be on Easter! We are so thankful to Trudy Ardizzone, our Missioner for Christian Education and Formation for having the great idea in the first place, and for Jonatha Linn and Michelle Pittenger, whose hard work preparing our kids for the service is so dedicated and selfless.



James Aranguren served as a lay reader at the February 27th service. (Mike Munson photo.)

It is an amazing feast of the church, Easter. Coming as it does after the hard times of Lent, what makes it so remarkable is what it is we are celebrating. Think about it. We are celebrating that everything Jesus said he was going to do, he did. Jesus said that he would die for us, and that after three days, he would live again. His rising from the dead, his eternal life, began on earth, in full sight of the people, so **that we would believe...with our own eyes we would see the Son of God among us. He wanted to make sure we understood...so much so that he appears to the disciples on one occasion, and since they were not all together, came back a second time so that Thomas would know that what he said he was going to do, he did. And really, if you think about it for just a minute...he does that for us every day.** It is what our faith is all about. Jesus comes to us when you notice the good things others do for you. Jesus comes to us when you think of the other person

before you think of yourself. Jesus comes to us when we gather together as a **community of faith at church. Jesus is always around us...as close as your breath... as close as the person next to you.**

Our faith is built on the rock...the rock of truth...the truth that we believe in Jesus because *everything he said he was going to do, he did.* And having understood and experienced that, (remember I am writing this today before Sally's funeral) that he would raise us up and give us eternal life because he loves us, and while we are on this earth, we are to live good lives of service to others and love for God...not because we are afraid that we will get in trouble if we don't...but because we are compelled to live lives of gratitude for all Jesus has done for us. It really is that simple. Being Easter People is all about recognizing that our hearts are changed, because of Jesus. Being Easter People is really all we can be, because **once you believe, you can't all of a sudden ignore all the things you have become, because of Jesus. And how is this true? Because we know that *everything he said he was going to do, he did.***

Remember that we have will have almost a month more of Lent before we get to Easter. Please put into your calendars the services of Holy Week, and make your best effort to be at church for the services. Making that final last journey to Jerusalem beginning on Palm Sunday will shed so much light for you on Being Easter People. For that is our destiny my friends. And the more we understand that Lent is a season, but Easter comes every day; the more we will live into the gift of Jesus and a changed heart.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael

A donation to the church

One of our parishioners recently brought by my office a donation of two bags of adult diapers. If you know of anyone who is in need, please let me know. I understand that they are costly, and am grateful that the donor thought of those in need in our church.

Fr. Michael+



*Judy Lin and Nemesio Balcena serve Alice Drus at the Shrove Tuesday dinner.
(John Beeler photo.)*

The Red Shirt Project is coming!

Every year, I fly out to Rapid City, South Dakota and spend some time with the Elders of the village of Red Shirt making plans for our annual Red Shirt Project. Usually I go in January when it is **wonderfully cold...but this year, with everything that has been going on, I have not been able to make the trip.** It is an essential part of the project. We go on the Red Shirt Project as invited **guests of the Elders of the village.** We don't just show up when we feel like it. We are always mindful that we are working at somebody's home. Fr. Bob and I sit and listen with the villagers and hear the projects they would like us to consider, and try to figure out ways to get them done. We also have our own ideas that we share, and through the evening, we come to an understanding of what the Red Shirt Project will focus on this year. Then, the Elders invite us to return to their village, and we thank them, and set a date.

This year, we want to continue our work of contributing to self-sufficiency, what Eric Law calls "**being a sustainer**", and **propose building a gift and coffee shop on land that Fr. Two Bulls, Sr.** will donate above the village. We are excited about building a spot for artists and craftspeople to display and sell beadwork, blankets, art objects and paintings to folks who drive by the spot on their way to Badlands National Park. We believe that the goal of the Red Shirt Project, which has always been about developing relationships with young people from the village and providing the means for native people from the village to do some economic development for **themselves, is clearly represented in this year's big idea.** What Bishop Bruno calls a BHAG...a Big Holy Audacious Goal.

I will fly out after church services on April 10, and spend the week at Red Shirt, returning late on Saturday the 16th, so we can be together for Palm Sunday on the 17th of **April...and walk together** through Holy Week. I have also completed work on a grant request from the Bishop Stevens Foundation which I am hoping will contribute to our work together on the Red Shirt Project. If you want to help us get this accomplished, please contribute to our common mission work. Checks may be made out to **St. Mary's Red Shirt Project and dropped** in the collection plate on Sunday, or **you can drop it by the church...** whatever is most convenient for you. I am pretty sure we will leave on July 17th and return fifteen days later to Lompoc. God bless you for your help these past years, and please consider helping us again.

With my hand on the plow,

Fr. Michael+



Wounded Knee Memorial at Red Shirt

Annual St. Martha's Tea

It is spring again and time for our annual St. Martha's Tea. This outreach event is a lovely way to spend an afternoon with friends, old and new. The theme for this year's tea is "Sowing Seeds of Love" and our decorations are things from the garden and of our local flower fields. There will be table favors and gift baskets for those who join us. The Spring Tea is a great opportunity for you to invite friends who may be looking for a new church. If you would like to attend, please call Kay Rowland for reservations at 733-3383. The tea will begin at 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 30, 2011 in Fitch Hall. There is no charge and we would love to have you join us, but you will need a reservation and an invitation to attend as the seating is limited. We hope to see you there.

St. Martha's Guild



Above: Charlotte Hayes' photo of 2009 Tea.

Left: Edythe Ortiz, Molly Gerald, and Linda Everly look over some of the fabric and yarn donated for making prayer shawls. (John Beeler photo.)

HOW COULD I FORGET GOD?

I am sitting at my computer on this rainy/cool Wednesday morning in March. Being a painter with only outside work I am not working but getting many small items completed. Then my phone rings, it is my accountant telling me to come down and sign my completed tax returns. Am I getting a refund I ask? Yes you are she answers, good we will be right down.

Ok let's see what I can spend the money on, credit card payoff, equity line payoff, vacation, savings, or some new cool tool, or what else? I mull over the choices pondering what I may have left off the list. I better ask Peg to review the list, I am sure she has some thoughts, new rug, tile floor, new interior paint no better make that exterior paint, what else is there? Then like a 2 x 4 it hits me, where is God on the list, why isn't He first?

How could I possibly forget Him, He who gives me all I have, gave His life for me, is with me all the time and never, I mean NEVER forsakes me?

All I make through the talents He has given me I give back a percentage to Him in thanksgiving for what He has given me.

Every Sunday when we bring our offertory to the Lord's Table we say "All things come from thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee". So what is different about a tax refund, nothing; so why don't I give Him back some of this unexpected gift?

Ok how much? Biblically the tithe is what I should give; I can do that and will. The first check I write will be to you Lord for 10% of my refund. Thank you for the opportunity to give to you.

What about you, will your first check from your refund be to God? Our treasurer has agreed to make a new income line item for any monies that come from refunds. Just mark your check in memo with refund. If we get enough money the vestry will have the difficult task of determining how to spend it, a task we have not had for a long time.

Prayer about it and join me in giving back to God what he has given us.

Thank you Lord for all you give me (us),
Howard Gould



Howard Gould flips pancakes and Steve Aranguren looks on at the Shrove Tuesday dinner. (John Beeler photo)

Your Vestry Speaks

This particular issue of Vestry Speaks covers the first quarter of this year. We started by having our annual meeting in January. For those of you who are not aware, the annual meeting is an official vestry meeting that the Episcopal Church Canons require. Both your vestry and the parishioners review the past years accomplishments, and elect new vestry members and delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Our church was blessed to elect Alice Drus, Jeanne Macomber, Helen Free, and Nemesio Balcena as vestry members, and Patricia LoCicero, Nancy Straight, and Howard Gould as convention delegates. It was a well attended meeting with good food and plenty of interesting information exchanged.

February saw the vestry hold its annual retreat at the Pork Palace, a quaint rustic establishment with a ton of memorabilia from years past that provided a quiet location for a retreat. Our parishioner, Sally Jones, gave us the space to meet in, for which we are very thankful. The retreat was more spiritual than business and gave the vestry time to enjoy God, each other, and the solitude of the day. One piece of business that transpired was the development of Ministry Focus that replaces Vestry Liaisons. The Ministry focus allows each vestry member to be a representative to more than one ministry; this gives each of us the opportunity to put our energies where our hearts are.

March was our first normal meeting, as normal as things can be at St. Mary's. We started by studying Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth chapter 4:5-12. The responses to the Kaleidoscope questions were deep and profound. We then continued with Ministry focus reports before beginning the business portion of the agenda. We approved the 2010 Parochial Report and treasurer's report, and approved the transfer of a donated van to Fr. Michael. Our first meeting had an positive energetic approach, giving hope that much will be accomplished this year.

May God bless this vestry and its work, Amen.

Your Vestry

Quiet Day

Please join us at 9am on 9 April for a Quiet Day sponsored by the St. Mary's Daughters of the King (DOK), Roses of Sharon Chapter. You do not have to be a member of DOK, you do not have to join and you do not have to be silent. But you do need to bring a sack lunch. We will conclude after Holy Eucharist which will start at 1pm. Contact Valerie Ward at valeriekward2002@yahoo.com for additional information.

Editor's Note: The following is the first of a series of articles your Vestry will write describing the various Vestry Focus Areas within our Church.

Vestry Focus Area: Buildings and Grounds

I've recently taken on the job of chair for Buildings and Grounds. We all are responsible to maintain our beautiful facility, but I get to look around and find all the little, and not so little fixit tasks that we need done, and then find a way to get the job done. Little did I know how much effort it can take. We recently found out it takes four of us to change a light bulb. The list of tasks is seemingly endless, and I'm especially appreciative of the help and guidance that Howard provides.

I'd like to focus this article on the work done each month by our four work parties. Organized in 2005, the four teams, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, each work once every four months, for about four hours on a Saturday morning. That's only three times a year. Each work party shows up, works through that days list of tasks, and then ends the day with a light lunch. Thank you all who have donated your time to maintain our facility.

March 12th was a typical work day. We were blessed to have 15 people ready to work. Not all teams have been fortunate to have this many volunteers recently. Thanks to Buck Sharp for providing the rider mower, and mowing the big stuff. Thanks to Mike Munson and John Sipos for additional mowing and trimming. We always have a lot of grass to mow and weeds to pull. Thanks to Jeanne and Stewart Johnston, Mary Saladino, Sheryl Murray, Steve and Lauren Aranguren, along with their kids James and Frankie, and to Fr. Michael and Howard Gould for their help. Finally, thanks to Kay Rowland for providing a great lunch. The effort I saw on that day is typical for all four teams. Again, thanks to those who are helping.



We can use more hands. Can you help us three Saturdays a year, for about four hours each? Let me know when you see me at Church, or send me an email at Rick.Kendall@Verizon.Net, or call me at 733-2995, and we'll get you on one of the teams. Our next opportunity is Saturday, April 9th.

Your Vestry Representative,
Rick Kendall,
Buildings and Grounds.

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Bonnie Fairbanks	04/03
Ray Gould	04/04
John Kazianka	04/08
Evelyn Willis	04/08
Jeanne Yeiser	04/10
Ruth Johnsen	04/11
Abigail Smith	04/11
Gwinnie Howard	04/12
Marno Goetsch	04/21
Margaret Prothero	04/22
Thomas Gerald	04/24
Helen Down	04/25
John Linn	04/28
Christian Kazianka	04/29
Bob Lingl	04/30



April Work Party

If you are a member of Team Matthew, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on April 9th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Howard Gould (team leader), Ruth Hicks (lunches), and Nemisio Balcena, John Beeler, Bill and Kathy Cady, Peggy Gould, Mary Anne Janecek, and Louise Larson.

Financial Statement

(As of February 28th, 2011)

As of 02/28/2011

Undesignated checking & savings	\$72,951
Designated checking *	\$44,994
Parish mortgage	\$349,338

	Actual Feb '11	Actual Jan - Feb '11	Budget Jan - Feb '11
Income	\$21,921	\$52,076	\$49,365
Expenses	\$23,785	\$53,503	\$53,405
Net income/(loss)	(\$1,864)	(\$1,427)	(\$4,040)

BURN the MORTGAGE fund:	\$51,254
Transfer to General Fund in 2010	\$36,000
* BURN the MORTGAGE Designated Acct.	\$15,254

Sunday - April 17th

Palm Sunday Services 8^{AM} and 10^{AM}

Procession of the Palms with Bagpipes at 10^{AM}

Monday - April 18 Stations of the Cross 5:30^{PM}

Holy Eucharist at 6^{PM}

Tuesday - April 19 Stations of the Cross 5:30^{PM}

Evening Worship at 6^{PM}

Wednesday - April 20 Stations of the Cross 5:30^{PM}

Evening Worship at 6^{PM}

Maundy Thursday - April 21 - Evening Worship at 7^{PM} and overnight vigil in Fitch Hall

Good Friday - 11 - 1^{PM} Worship

Saturday - April 23 - Easter Vigil 8^{PM}

Easter Sunday: 8:00^{AM} with music

10:30^{AM} Festival Eucharist



To keep up to date on church events, please visit our website www.stmaryslompoc.org often, especially the [calendar](#) page in the menu on the left margin.

Bede the Bat

Hello from me, Bede the Bat in the St. Mary's Bell-fry.

Once again Lent is upon us. I have always believed that very interesting things happen to me in Lent. Sometimes they are spiritual. Often they are mundane, ordinary things. And once in awhile, they are kind of both. Such a one happened to me yesterday. I received two letters -- one from friends in Santa Maria and one that was directly concerned with the first. The second one said this:



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you because I am seeking employment. My name is Agnes Claire and I am a card-carrying member in good standing of the Confraternity of Anglican Tabbies (C.A.T.'s). My dues are current and I have a very fine resume. I have letters of reference from my former congregation. When they closed the doors of the church, I was left out in the cold. It has been difficult for me to find employment in my chosen profession as a Church Cat. I have tried at St. Peter's, Santa Maria, but their positions are filled by Maude and Millicent Mouse and a number of Church Cats. Since there is no place for me there, I am sending you a letter asking for help. I appeal to you as a fellow creature. My meager savings are gone and I am hungry and tired. Surely some church needs a Church Cat as Lent is a busy time for churches. I am an expert mouser and can give great comfort to both children and adults. Can you help me? My friends at St. Peter's said they would write to you since you are friends and they will verify my good nature and my worthiness for steady employment.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Agnes Claire Cat:

I must tell you that this is one of the saddest letters I have ever received. I have also, as I said, received one from my friends, Maude and Millicent Mouse and their fellow creatures at St. Peter's. I have always believed that Lent was a time when we must not only reflect on our past actions, but we must seek out and help those less fortunate. My friends and I have researched the question before us and have found a very happy solution. We have found a church that needs a Church Cat. We have arranged for an interview with the priest at that church. We have heard that he is a kind and caring man and loves Cats! We are

hopeful that things work out for poor Agnes Claire. This would be a wonderful Lenten memory for all of us.

As I have said, Lent is a time for unusual things -- some spiritual, some ordinary, some mundane. This one is one we will recall for many days. To be of help to others is what our Creator intended for us to do. We are hopeful that Agnes Claire will find a home. It is what all of us wish for. Because of the events that happened long ago, our Creator has made that possible for all of us. He sent His Son and we will one day be at home with Him and His Father. We pray for you and hope you will pray for us.

A blessed Lent to all of our friends at St. Mary's,
Bede the Bat in the St. Mary's Belfry



Our children assist at the Altar at the February 27th service (Mike Munson photo)

Prayers of the People

We ask that you hold these persons in your Daily Prayers.

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will and to Your loving prayerful nature; that we can faithfully interceded on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

**Isla Hill, Stan Sheldon, Shiela Holley, Kathryn Gibson,
Nancy Lipsius, Tom Welch, DeDe Dunn, Alicia Garcia-Hamilton,
Bill Brown, Paula Larson, Baby Avery Jane and Patty Townsend.**

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:

Matt Schmieser, Carl Free, Brandon, Robert Smith, Emily Ortiz, Tom Pittenger, Bob Ramos, David Barrett, Rick Tiff, Jason D, Tim C, Ed M, Lance L, Jaime C and Paige Hurlbut.

AMEN+

Please Note:

Prayers of the People will be updated monthly. If you would like to add or continue a name to the POP, please fill out a Pink Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org, call any of our Prayer Tree members, or email Stephanie Bastian at jeffnsteph95@msn.com. Thank you!

“Whenever two of you on earth agree in prayer, it will be done by my Father in Heaven.” Matthew 18:19

In Our Next Issue:



Being Easter People