



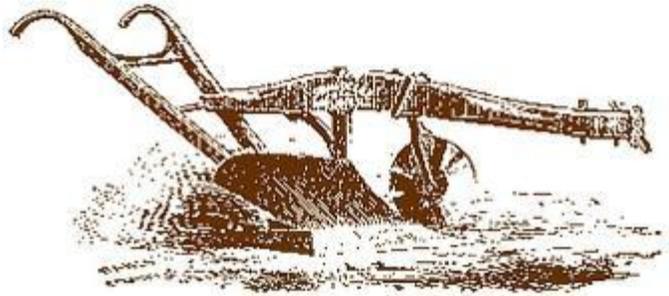
The Bells of Saint Mary

January 2012

With My Hand on the Plow Epiphany

A new light. Seeing in a new light. Being aware of light. Light that the darkness cannot overcome. Epiphany.

Welcome to 2012...a new year, a new day and a new time for St. Mary's. As of this writing, our house on Rigel Avenue is up for sale and we are *this close* to being able to pay off the mortgage on our church and property and being debt free, for the first time in twenty years. When all of this happens, and I believe it will happen in 2012, we will be in a new place...a new day will be ours...and we will move into a time of endless possibilities and opportunities for ministry. And all of this will take place because you worked so hard, and gave so much, and prayed so well for our parish church of St. Mary. I am so proud of all of you.



Your vestry worked very hard to get to this day. Your Finance Committee put in many long hours in preparation for the Vestry meeting on the 19th of December that Bishop Bruno came to. He came to have a conversation with your Vestry, and

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after staying with us for about an hour and a half, drove back to Los Angeles, letting us know he would pray and think about everything we had talked about, and would get back to us. And he did, the very next morning. He said yes we could sell the old Rectory because it would free up money for ministry. He said that he wants us to invite Bishop Diane Bruce to come to talk with us about Stewardship, and to help us move to being a leader in our diocese and especially in our Deanery in Stewardship. That it is so obvious that we understand ministry...and that we need to better understand Stewardship as being all about ministry and our lives as Christian people. It was just a very wonderful conversation we had with our Bishop, and provides for us an opportunity to go forward in ministry that is exciting and possible.



Christmas Pageant rehearsal photo by Nancy Straight.

What is going to happen in our immediate future is that we will begin showing the house to perspective buyers. We have asked Donna Vordale to represent us as our agent and she will be doing her very best to get us a fair price as quickly as possible. Our tenant has the option to stay in the house until March 1, and after that time, if the house is not sold by then, it will remain vacant so that it will be easier to “show” to buyers. We will need to be very careful to mind our pennies in the

first half of 2012 so that we can manage our affairs without the extra income of our rental as of the first of March. But we can do that. We know about giving and we know about cutting back. We will do what we need to do to accomplish this.

Epiphanies come in all shapes and sizes. They come when we least expect them... not because God isn't constantly offering them...but because we aren't paying attention. This Epiphany, make sure you take the time to start each day with prayer. Ask God to make you more aware of what God is doing in your life every day. Then, at the end of each day, say thank you in prayer for the gifts of awareness you have been given that day. Do this every day, and you will be amazed at how much more of God's hand you see at work in the world about you. Thus, your Epiphany season will be richly blessed with an awareness of God's presence...and this will be a new light for you...a new way of seeing...a new you.

Fr. Michael+



Pageant rehearsal photos taken by Stephanie Bastian.



An Invitation to Tea

Epiphany, the Journey of the Magi, an English Tea Luncheon with tea sandwiches, scones and a variety of desserts, will be held at St. Mary's on Saturday, January 14th from 1:30 - 3:30^{PM}. Space is limited and reservations need to be made in advance. Open to all St. Mary's Parishioners and their families, sponsored by your Marthas. Please call Julie Sherman at 737-1178 for reservations and/or information.



*Frances Longley took this picture of the decorating work, and sent it to your editor for his 48th birthday.
Nice present!*

Big Thank You

So many people have been helping with preparations for Christmas. All kinds of preparations, in all areas. Decorations, baking, and programs all involved many hands. We feel a renewed sense of community. As far as decorating the Church, inside and out, so many hands were helping that we are sure if we started a list, we would need more paper, and would still fail to thank everyone. In lieu of a list, we just want to say thank you to all those who helped.

Thank you very much,
Jeanne and Rick Kendall

Work Party Update, and Request for Help

Some time ago, four teams were formed to help your Buildings and Grounds team maintain the Church grounds. These teams worked great for several years, but the attendance at the work parties has fallen off, and we need to rebuild the teams. Thank you to all who have helped in the past. Recently, your Vestry determined that we need professional help and hired a gardener to mow, weed, and generally keep the grounds in shape, but we still need your help. If you are willing to serve your Church, helping with the innumerable tasks that always need doing, consider volunteering for the newly re-forming work party teams. With four teams, each team will only be asked to help for a few hours on Saturday morning, once every four months. Can you help? Please call or email Rick Kendall (733-2995 or rick.kendall@verizon.net). We also need four team leaders to

help coordinate the work, and team cooks willing to feed the helping hands with a light lunch. Again, thank you to all who have helped and we hope you will again offer your assistance; this plea for help goes out to invite those who are unaware of the need.

Notes from a Novice Caroler

Joining the St. Mary's group of volunteer carolers for the first time, I was excited to experience what this version would be—where would we go? Who would we visit?

Friday, December 23, in the early evening, was cold and clear—perfect for caroling! We were equipped with words to the old favored standbys—"O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," "Jingle Bells," "What Child Is This?" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Father Michael's GPS would serve us well as our guiding star.

At several stops, I have to confess, we were raucous on "Silent Night" and a bit over the top on "Jingle Bells." However, no one seemed to mind and in our larger audiences, we were thrilled to see and hear our recipients singing along with us! We did not sing "What Child Is This?" to the mother in active labor at the hospital, but staff and visitors throughout the halls greeted us with smiles and some joined the singing.

Mostly, we announced ourselves with "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and exited with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Several of us sang verses of the carols that were not included in our printout—the miracle of memory over many years of Christmas carols—sweet reminiscences.

The St. Mary's carolers were offered eggnog and hot chocolate, candy and best wishes (no figgy pudding), but we most enjoyed each other's singing and the smiles of appreciation we received everywhere. We saw many Christmas light displays all over the Lompoc area and perhaps carried away a Christmas joy from the faces we saw. Noel!

Kati Smith



Photo of the angel tree in Fitch Hall taken by John Beeler.



January Birthdays	
Kaje Schultz	1/1
Jonatha Linn	1/5
Denise Laufer	1/6
Jenna Daley	1/10
Katy Wallace	1/10
Audrey Bowman	1/11
Barbara Holt	1/16
Gregory Holt	1/17
Anita McManigal	1/20
Barbara Wilson	1/20



Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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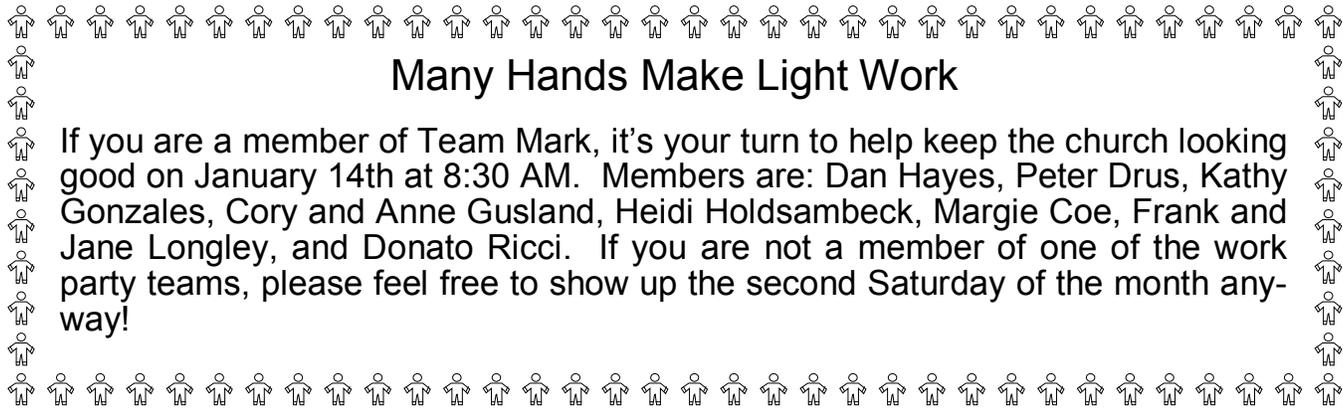
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Many Hands Make Light Work

If you are a member of Team Mark, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on January 14th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Dan Hayes, Peter Drus, Kathy Gonzales, Cory and Anne Gusland, Heidi Holdsambeck, Margie Coe, Frank and Jane Longley, and Donato Ricci. If you are not a member of one of the work party teams, please feel free to show up the second Saturday of the month anyway!

Financial Statement (As of November 31st, 2011)

Undesignated checking & savings	\$65,628
Designated checking *	\$22,945
Parish mortgage	\$251,540

	Actual November '11	Actual Jan - Nov '11	Budget Jan - Nov '11
Income (Excluding BTM)	\$28,160	\$286,289	\$293,756
Expenses	\$30,121	\$295,509	\$291,815
Net income/(loss)	(\$1,961)	(\$9,220)	\$1,941

BURN the MORTGAGE (BTM) fund:	\$120,530
Transfer to General Fund in 2010	\$36,000
Pay Down Mortgage in October 2011	\$77,932
* BURN the MORTGAGE Designated Acct.	\$6,598



Fr. Michael listens to Nancy Straight's New Consecration Sunday talk at the November 13th service. Photo by John Beeler.

Bede the Bat

Hello to my Friends at St. Mary's from me, Bede the Bat!

Can you believe that once again Christmas has come and gone and our New Year's Resolutions should have been made and probably broken by now? (I speak from past and bitter experience and this is why my diet will not include figs or bananas this year! It's pretty hard to fly when you're packing all those extra ounces. But more about my flying later.)



Once again we're in the Season of Epiphany or the Season of Light as I like to call it. All of you know that Epiphany is the Season in which we learn again of the manifestation of Christ to the Magi. (Sometimes we hear people talk of having an "epiphany" and they mean that they have had some meaningful experience that has greatly moved them. Certainly it was quite a moving experience for those Kings or Wise Men or Magi, whichever you choose to call them.)

The Light called them. They followed it. They were rewarded by being bathed in it, blessed by it and renewed by it. Our Creator knew how important Light would be for His world. When He said, "Let there be Light!", I feel certain that He wasn't just thinking of the Light that would illuminate His world. I believe that He looked into the future when He would send the true Light of the world. He would send His Son and Light would take on a new meaning -- an illumination for the soul and a warmth for the spirit. Many hundreds of years later, when I fly high above St. Mary's and watch my friends come and go, I feel it still. I feel the presence of Our Lord and I remember how He came that we might have a Light for our path. I recall His words and know that, when the Wise Men followed the Star, they found a treasure beyond price and it would light their way and ours forever.

And so, during this beautiful Season of Epiphany, I will fly and bathe myself in the Light that is brighter than any Star; brighter than any Moon; brighter than the Sun. As the Hymn says, "All laud we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of Light hideth Thee!" Don't be afraid to look into its splendor! Look for and follow the Light!

Blessings from me, Bede



*Creche displayed by
Pete Drus.
Photo by
John Beeler.*

Prayers of the People

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

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will, that we may faithfully intercede on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

**Lee Bowles, Pat Day, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill, Lou Hodges,
Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon,
Linda Smith, Tom Welch, Kitty Wenk, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright,
MaryJo Wright, and Jeanne Yeiser.**

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

**Carl Free, David Barrett, Travis Kendall,
Jason D, Kevin S, and Nevin Taylor**

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 Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org call any of our Prayer Ring 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