



The Bells of Saint Mary

April 2013

With My Hand on the Plow

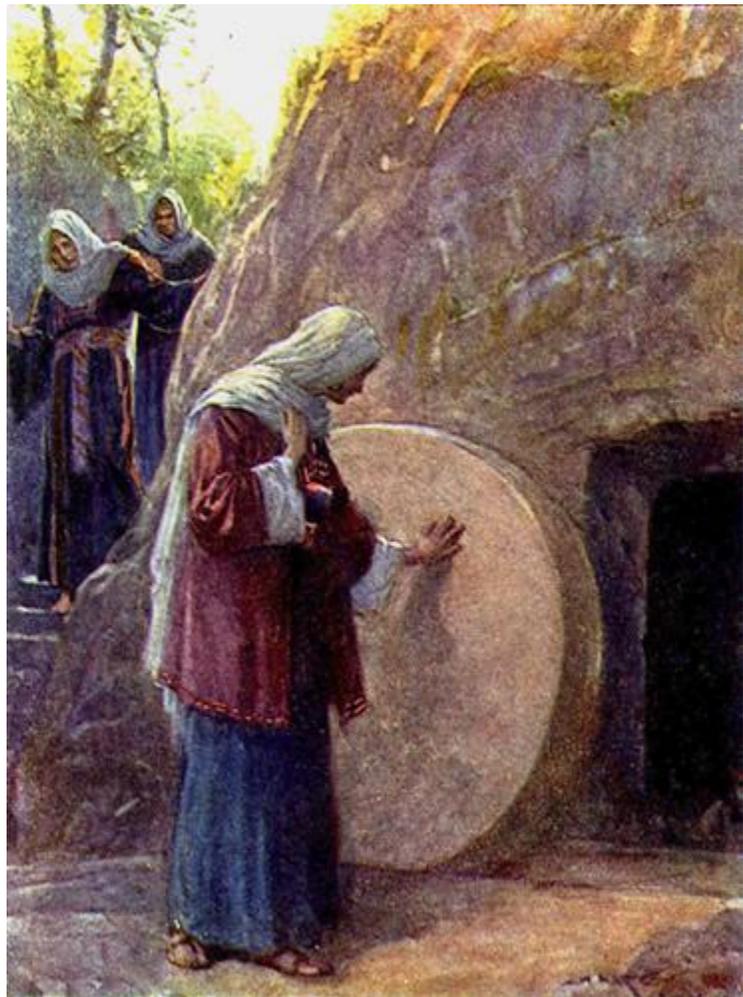
Dear Friends,

It is Holy Saturday. The Vigil is tonight, Easter Sunday is tomorrow. Happy Easter to each and every one of you.

With great love for you every day,

Fr. Michael+

"He is not here, for He is risen, as He said..."
Matthew 28:1-8



Inside this issue:

[Nuts and Bolts and Housekeeping](#)

[Palms and Bagpipes](#)

[Designated Funds, 2012](#)

[March Birthdays](#)

[Bede the Bat](#)

[Prayers of the People](#)

Nuts and Bolts and Housekeeping

by Kati Smith, Finance Committee

When figuring out a yearly budget for an individual or family, saving up for a special item or a fun vacation can become a focus. But what about regular, monthly expenses? They are boring, even tedious, yet necessary.

Here at St. Mary's, the congregation made a terrific effort to pay off the mortgage to relieve the constant stress of payments and interest that were curtailing our progress and hampering efforts we wanted to make in the community. We have thoroughly celebrated this outcome and a year ago, the mortgage papers fired the Easter first flame out of darkness. Are we resting on our laurels? Our job is not yet done. Those monthly expenses keep coming. Here are three immediate tasks ahead:

1. Keep your pledge current even if you are out of town
2. Contribute to the open plate offering
3. Examine your St. Mary's giving---can you be more generous?

In late April, after the first quarter's financial results are complete, the Finance Committee will present an update to the congregation. As always, questions will be welcomed. Until then, let's keep the lights on!



Fr. Michael blesses the palms on Palm Sunday.

Photo by John Beeler.

*Once again, Ted Jackson played the bagpipes for the Palm Sunday procession.
Photo by John Beeler.*



Passing out the palms. Photo by John Beeler.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
 Designated Funds-Parishoner Contributions
 Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 2012

		Deposits for St. Mary's Garden
Administrative Support	\$ 1,117.35	
Burn the Mortgage	\$ 9,830.36	
Christian Formation	\$ 986.75	
Flowers	\$ 3,170.00	
Red Shirt	\$ 11,765.00	
Back Packs	\$ 1,625.00	
United Thank Offering	\$ 49.80	
Outreach	\$ 390.00	
Good Friday	\$ 766.00	Diocese of Jerusalem
Nets for Life	\$ 1,945.00	
Feed the Homeless	\$ 1,200.00	
St. Martha's Guild	\$ 2,161.00	
Radical Hospitality	\$ 153.00	
Repair & Replacement	\$ 7,204.68	
Altar Guild	\$ 131.87	
Musicians	\$ 400.00	
Total - Designated Giving	\$ 42,895.81	



Blessing the Palms - Palm Sunday 8 o'clock Service

PHOTO BY DON LOWN

E-Mail Addresses:

Fr. Michael:
rector@stmaryslompoc.org
The Rev. Deacon Dr. Judy Lin
judymlin@yahoo.com
The Rev. Deacon Paul Eustace
warenp@gmail.com

Elizabeth: Parish Administrator
admin@stmaryslompoc.org
Wardens and Clerk:
vestry@stmaryslompoc.org
Bells Editor:
john.beeler@verizon.net

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

Telephone: (805) 733-4400
Fax: (805) 733-4405

www.stmaryslompoc.org



Bonnie Fairbanks	04/03
Ray Gould	04/04
John Kazianka	04/08
Evelyn Willis	04/08
Ruth Johnsen	04/11
Gwinnie Howard	04/12
Robert Breen	04/15
Lilybeth Hutton	04/19
Paul Eustace	04/21
Marno Goetsch	04/21
Tom Gerald	04/24
Helen Down	04/25
Christian Kazianka	04/29
Bob Lingl	04/30

Many Hands Make Light Work

Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, April 13th, at 8:30 AM. You can help with the gardening, vacuuming the sanctuary, changing lightbulbs, or many other things that help keep the church going!

Bede the Bat

Hello to all my church family at St. Mary's. It's me again -- Bede the Bat.

What's your favorite season of the year? I don't really have a favorite. I love them all. Each one has something that makes it unique. Winter has Christmas and New Year's and lots of figure skating and I love figure skating! Autumn has football and Halloween and Thanksgiving and a new start in school. Summer is wonderful with swimming and the beach and just hanging around and enjoying life. They're really all my favorites, but then there's Spring. And right now, Spring is my favorite season. There's the beautiful promise of Easter after the somber feeling of Lent. I truly love the Spring.



But I really love Spring for very special reasons. I like to watch things grow. I wrote about planting seeds of hope and watching that seed grow stronger and stronger until it fairly bursts into bloom. There's a special place I go almost every day. I get up early and fly there while the world is waking up and going to work or to school or going about the daily chores. I see lots of people and I wonder about them. Are they happy that they are going to work or to school or washing dishes? Do they know how lucky they are to work or to learn or to make things clean and nice? Do they look up and see me high above them and wonder what in the world a Bat is doing flying around at that time of day? You see, most people think that Bats only come out at night and, for the most part, I guess that's true. However, as I have told you many times, I'm not just an ordinary Bat. I can do many things that others of my persuasion can't do and so I rise early and head for my special place.

I found my place quite by accident when I was flying around one day. It's a small back yard here in town. The day I found it, I was feeling out of sorts and trying to make myself feel better by dive bombing some birds (well, I never said I was perfect!) and then I spied this pretty little yard. In the yard was a beautiful Cat, so I didn't get too close, but I could see that there were flowers and that someone had sown some seeds because the soil looked mounded and fresh. I thought for the briefest moment that I might just swoop down and dig up some of those seeds to eat for a morning treat. But as I got closer to them, a lady came out and called the Cat to come into the house. That was good because now I could really rush in and dig up some of those tasty seeds. However, as I got closer to the bed, I saw that some of the seeds had already begun to sprout and so I touched down and took a good look at them. They were tiny and green and very pretty. I sat for a long time just looking at them and I could have sworn that I could see them grow.

After that, I went back everyday, sometimes twice a day, just to watch those seedlings grow. I felt that they were mine and that I should watch over them and make certain that they grew to be big and strong and beautiful. And so they did. And as they grew that first Spring that I found them, so did my spirits begin to grow. If I awoke in the morning and felt out of sorts, I knew that if I visited my green and growing plants, so would my spirits grow and become refreshed and renewed. As I watched each day, they grew and grew and then one day the first flower appeared. The lady came into the yard and smiled and admired the bloom. I watched her from my perch in a tree and I smiled, too. We shared a wonderful moment. We each knew that Spring had come again and that hope had been renewed and that God was in His Heaven and all was right with the world.

That is why I love the Spring. I wake each day and fly to the yard and watch to see if the sprouts have begun their journey to beauty and hope. I do this every Spring and it makes me know that no matter how dark the Winter months might be, the flowers will return and speak to me of hope. I think I'll plant my own seeds today. I'll still fly to the pretty yard and watch "my" seeds turn into blossoms, but it will be nice to have something of my own to tend. Hope has to be tended or it won't flower. And that's the Lesson I've learned about Springtime. Hope might spring eternal, but you have to tend it and believe in it so that it will flower when you most need it. I hope your Spring is as beautiful as mine always is. Plant some seeds. Plant some hope. You'll be glad you did.

Springtime blessings from Me, Bede, the Bat in the St. Mary's Belfry!



I have to admire this tree for growing as big as it has — nearly three feet tall — in as little soil as it has in the parking lot where it lives. Photo by John Beeler.

Financial Statement

As of 2/28/2013

Undesignated checking & savings \$59,033
Designated Checking \$26,050

	Actual Feb '13	Actual Jan - Feb '13	Budget Jan - Feb '13
Income	\$18,869	\$39,141	\$52,032
Expenses	\$21,640	\$48,298	\$51,809
Net income/(loss)	(\$2,771)	(\$9,157)	\$223

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:

**George Bowman, Gisele Boyd-Snee, Lee Bowles, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill,
Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson,
Stan Sheldon, Rachel Williams, and Keith Wright,**

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

**Allan, Bill, Carl, Carlos, Jason, Juliana, Kevin, Kimberly,
Paige, Patrick, Robert, Simon, Ryan and Whitney.**

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