

GLAD TIDINGS

ST. MARY'S in-the-hills
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2011

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CHRIS' CORNER

The other day (two weeks before Easter) I noticed a church sign as I was driving. It said: Alleluia, He Is Risen, Alleluia! My immediate reaction was: "No, he has to die first". The more I thought about that sign and my reaction the more I found myself contemplating that experience. We all like the good things in this life. We all like to dwell on the happy times, and tend to skirt around the painful memories of times of sorrow, of anxiety, of uncertainty. Yet, those are the very times when we are most likely to grow and to find the deep meaning and values in our life. As a child I remember that Palm Sunday was the triumphant entry by Jesus into Jerusalem. It was a wonderful Sunday and all upbeat. The darker times of Holy Week would come later in the week. And everyone would be present for those—Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Whole days of serious prayer, of reflection, of penance. With the 1979 Prayer Book the Palm Sunday liturgy changed. It began with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But with the Gospel reading we were thrust into Good Friday. We stood at the foot of the cross with and dead Savior and were left there for the week. That change came about because times were changing and fewer people were attending Holy Week services. Theologically we cannot know the joy of Easter without the sorrow of Good Friday. We cannot know a Risen Savior with experiencing Jesus

dead on the cross and laid in the tomb.

That was what set me off as I drove by that sign. The sign proclaimed the triumph of Easter without the betrayal and pain of the cross. Of course we would all write it that way if we were in charge of the script. We would seek the joy without the pain. We would seek the triumph without the sacrifice. But fortunately we are not the writers of the script for the salvation of the world. God is the author and we are to read and accept God's version and not our own.

It is as we travel the unknown path, as we find we must rely on God and not our wills, that we begin to understand the way we are meant to live our lives. Lives of trust and gratitude, lives dependent upon God and one another and not just self. It is as we experience this truth and we can understand the truth of God, the love of God and the presence of God. Anything less is just that; less than what God wants to give us. We cannot know the joy of the resurrected Christ without also knowing the depth of Jesus suffering for us.

Fellowship Committee News

Upcoming Meetings

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for new members to help plan fun-filled events for all members of our St. Mary's family and beyond. Our monthly meetings are usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the St. Mary's Library. Our last meeting, before our summer hiatus, will be Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30 pm.

Scavenger Hunt/ Road Rally

The Fellowship Committee is in the process of planning one last event before the summer. On Saturday, May 14th at 5:00 join us for a Scavenger Hunt/ Road Rally beginning at St. Mary's. Dinner will be provided following the event. Look for more details on Facebook and in St. Mary's weekly bulletins.

Sunday School News

May is Movie, Magic and Munchie Month!!! We will continue to learn stories from the New Testament which has been our focus for the past 13 weeks as we completed the "Journey with Jesus" program. In May, we will use a variety of learning experiences to learn more about Jesus life on earth; movies, science experiments and cooking!

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, May 29th due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Please have your child take an activity bag into church.

Sunday, June 12th will be Sunday School Recognition Sunday. We hope to see all St. Mary's Sunday School Teachers and Students at the 10 am service. There will be a church family picnic after the 10 a.m. service at Keatington Beach. More details to follow.

Vacation Bible School

Another summer is approaching and that means another wonderful Vacation Bible School program is in the works at St. Mary's. We will once again be hold our Vacation Bible School in the evenings and include dinner at no charge. The program will be on August 9th and 11th (Tues. and Thurs.) and August 16th, 17th, and 18th (Tues, Wed. and Thurs). Each evening the event will run from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Our VBS is designed for children from birth through fifth grade. This years program, entitled Shake It Up, is cooking themed. In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths, and chalkboard menus, kids **explore the**

Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for **living out God's word**. Through **interactive lessons**, that are easy for kids to **apply to their lives** today, boys and girls will celebrate **biblical festivals** that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God.

If you are a parent interested in signing up your child/ children for this program visit <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/stmarysvbs>

If you are a teen or adult interested in helping with this program, whether it be with music, crafts, snacks, recreation, drama or nursery care, please plan on attending a meeting on Sunday June 5th following the 10:00 service and / or contact Stacy Tines.

Book Club

On May 11th, Tues., 12:30pm we will meet to discuss "**Not My Daughter**" by Barbara Delinsky.

Bring your lunch and join us. At this meeting we will also plan a movie for our last gathering.

Spring Cleanup

May 15th, Sunday, after the 10am services

We will - with all of your help - make quick work of some window washing, church polishing, etc. We will have things for the kids to do as well.

Please plan to come to church on May 15th in your "work clothes", stay after the 10am service for about 1 1/2 hrs. of help and then have lunch on us!

We all should be on our way home by 1:30pm!!! Please put this on your calendar. Thank you,
Your Property Committee

Vestry Sub Committees

Each year members of Vestry choose to participate in one of three sub committees. For 2011 these are your committee members:

Stewardship/Evangelism: Pete Trumbore, Stacy Tines, Brad Spear

Administration: Maxine Henderson, Melissa Breckenridge, Tony Pelc, Deb Lunney and Mike Tyler

Property: Sara Munro, Janice Dalgliesh, John McKenna, and Sue Sanna

Letters OR Packages to our own Rory Dalgliesh

Rory Dalgliesh (who's a longtime St. Mary's member and who's parents are both in our choir, Mike & Janice) has been serving as a Marine in our Armed Forces in Afghanistan since January. I asked Mike for Rory's address, as I felt letters from any of us would be a nice break in Rory's day. Mike sent me the following information about that, along with his address. Here is what Mike said: "*Letters have a way of taking more than a month to get where they should get to, and there's a possibility of them never arriving. Packages are the best way, so if anyone wants to send him a letter, either make-up a package and pop the letter in, or (and this is the best way) give it to me, for putting in the family's weekly package. By the middle of June there will be no*

more packages or letters going out, as he won't get them by the time he returns, some time during mid July and mid August."

So, think of something to share with Rory, pop it in an envelope and give to Mike, Janice (or me and I'll get it to Mike). Or, send directly yourself.

Here is Rory's address:

L/Cpl. Rory H. Dalgliesh
2/8 Fox Co., 3rd. Pit., Unit 73235
FPO AE 09510-3235

Thanks everyone, Sue Sanna

THY ROD AND THY STAFF by Peggy Wenk

Recently, I was honored to be asked to say the 23rd Psalm (The Lord is my Shepherd) at a cousin's funeral. There are many different versions, and I didn't know which one my cousin's family would like me to say, so I typed us several versions. And I was also figuring out which words I wanted to emphasize in a phrase, and where I wanted to put in pauses. In other words, I was really paying attention to the words and the meanings.

I got to the phrase "Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me", and I was struck by how this phrase was so unlike the rest of the psalm. The rest of the psalm was about resting in green pastures, finding still waters, having the soul restored, being given goodness and mercy. When I think of the word "rod", I think of the saying I'm not fond of, which is "spare the rod, spoil the child", which is about discipline, possibly hitting a child with a stick (which, by the way, it *not* a quote from the bible).

Reading through a lot of different comments from websites and blogs, I found some that did say that being disciplined by God was to be expected and that we should take joy in the fact that God cares enough about us to discipline us when we do wrong. However, there were other opinions. The views and

observations that I liked the best revolved around leading and defending. The **staff** is that long crooked stick, usually with a hook at the end (think of the bishop's staff or crozier). When the sheep stray off the path, the shepherd uses the staff to nudge them back onto the path, steer them in the right direction, push forward those who have fallen behind, and pull them out of the brush when they have strayed and gotten into trouble. The **rod** was a short, thick stick, like a club, worn at the belt. It was used to drive off animals that were attacking the sheep, such as wolves or wild dogs, or to defend the flock from robbers.

This is the image I'm going to hold onto, one of God guiding me, sometimes correcting my path through life, and defending me against the wrongs that might afflict me.

CROP WALK

The money raised from the CROP Hunger Walk supports Church World Service work around the world in emergency response, as well as longer term solutions like enhancing food security, providing sustainable safe water supplies and literacy training. 25% of the money raised will be distributed locally to FISH receiving 15%, Love INC receiving 5% and St. Vincent DePaul receiving 5%.

Last year the Lake Orion/Oxford walk raised a total of \$20,621.03 with St. Mary's contributing \$2,230.00. We hope to top that this year and raise a total of \$22,000.00 in the community with St. Mary's goal of \$2,300.00.

Please see or contact Maxine Henderson (248-393-1906), Erica West (248-894-7154) or Kathy Pelc (248-321-3133) to sign-up to walk or donate.

Also there will be a sign-up sheet if you are interested in baking cookies. We have been asked to donate 10 dozen cookies to serve with refreshments after the walk at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church.

To learn more about the CROP Walk: www.cropwalk.org

KROGER COMMUNITY

REWARDS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. In March we received our quarterly check from Kroger for \$154.60. There are currently 20 families participating for St. Mary's. A few are not even St. Mary's members, but friends and family of our parish members. This "free" money goes directly into the Building Fund to help pay our mortgage.

Since St. Mary's first started participating in this program in August 2007, we have received rewards totaling \$4,924!! Wow! This past year we received rewards of \$754. Keep on shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card at the checkout.

It's time to **re-sign up** for this program during the month of April (no earlier than April 1st). **All participants must sign up**

again for St. Mary's to receive rewards during the coming year, 5/2011 – 5/2012.

It's easy to enroll or re-enroll in this program. You can no longer scan the barcode letter at the register or service desk to participate. **St. Mary's ID number is 82296.**

Step by step instructions:

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Click Michigan

Click "**Re-enroll**" if you were registered in the program last year.

Put in your e-mail address

Put in your password (If you forgot the password you set up, please go thru the "forgot your password")

Find St. Mary's by typing in our NPO number: **82296.**

Click the "**Select your organization**"

Click the "**Save changes**"

OR, Click "**Enroll**" if you have never been a part of Kroger Community Rewards.com, Kroger.com or registered with the scan bar method last year.

"**Sign up today**" (to the right)

Enter your zip code and click "**Search**"

Click on the arrow to display the list of stores in your zip code and highlight your preferred store

Enter in your email and password

Click "**Next**"

Key in your Kroger Plus Card Number (If it says that this card has already been used, please call the number on the back or your card)

Enter the security code (from the box above it)

Enter in your contact information

Click on **"Next"**

Verify that your account information is correct. Check box for agreement of the terms and conditions and click **"Complete information"**

Kroger will send you an email to the address that you entered earlier in the process. (This can take up to 10 minutes).

Open the email that Kroger sent. Read the email and either click on the link within the email or copy and paste it into your browser.

Sign in: click on the **"Click here"** button and then type in your email and password.

Under Kroger Community Rewards Section at right, click **"Edit Kroger Community Rewards Information."**

Find St. Mary's by typing in our NPO number: 82296.

Click on **St. Mary's**. Please make sure that you click on the circle to the left of **St. Mary's** so that it becomes highlighted.

Click on **"Save Changes."**

Scroll over the page and make sure all information is accurate.

You are now **"registered!"**

Once you are registered, look at the bottom of your Kroger receipts. It should show St. Mary's

You **will not** receive advertising email from Kroger once you enroll and give them your email address! It's safe, easy, and makes "free money" for St. Mary's. Please enroll during April. Thanks!

Scout Project

In an effort to improve the outdoor grounds of St Mary's for quiet, meditative worship; a project to renovate the outdoor chapel will be undertaken. Nick McKenna, a Life Scout with St. Mary's chartered Troop 128 and a member of this parish, has been approved to renovate the outdoor chapel. As a part of a Scout's path to the rank of Eagle Scout; the Scout must propose, manage and implement a service project. Nick has chosen the renovation of the chapel as his Eagle Scout project. The current structure is in a state of disrepair. The original structure needs to be cleaned, braced and the spotlights surrounding need to be repaired or replaced. His plan starts by repairing and strengthen the existing structure. In addition, he will repair the existing benches and add twelve additional benches. Ten of the new benches will be installed into the ground and two will be freestanding with backs. The project will also include a four by four brick paver pad off the main path in the congregational area to allow for a wheel chair. Finally, an extensive cleanup of the area surrounding the chapel will be completed, including power washing the structure and benches.

Anticipated costs for the project are \$885. Parishioners and friends of St. Mary's wishing to donate to this project can do so by writing a check to St. Mary's with "Chapel" in the memo. Donations can be placed in the regular offering, or sent to the church: St. Mary's Chapel Project, 2512 Joslyn Ct., Lake Orion MI 48360.

Planned work days will be scheduled - everyone is invited to come out and make this

plan a reality!

The additions and improvements will make the Outdoor Scout Chapel accessible by everyone, and a beautiful place for many parish activities, as well as a peaceful place for individual prayer and meditation. Coupled with the recent Eagle Service Project by Alex Kelly, the scouts of St. Mary's are providing new opportunities for our church and community! Any additional funds received exceeding the amount required will be used to purchase additional landscaping for the chapel.

A cappelLa by Peggy Wenk

I was always told that a *cappella* meant "without music". That when a singing group sings without instruments also playing, this was a *cappella*, which I always thought was silly, since the singers WERE making music, so how could it be without music?

With Keenan having some pain in his hands, he has had to limit his time playing on the piano. So the choir has been

singing without accompaniment for the season of Lent. But I've learned that "without music", or without accompaniment, does not mean at the choir isn't being musical. This a *cappella* time for the choir has been a time for the choir to stretch our abilities.

We don't have the piano to:

- keep us in tune. We have to listen to each other more closely.
- keep us on tempo. We have to watch Keenan and his conducting more closely.
- help us hear the notes for the key change. We have to be innovative to figure out the transitions.
- fill in the background, when the choir is singing the same notes, so we are rewriting the music to make 2, 3, 4 and even 5 part harmony.

This a *cappella* time during Lent has, in my opinion, made us a better choir.

What's interesting is, when I looked up the meaning of a *cappella*, it actually means "in the manner of the church". In other words, it means a choral/singing piece, without instrumental accompaniment. So this Lent, St. Mary's choir has been singing "in the manner of the church" in the church!

What the chemical formula for holy water?
H₂Omg

(Say it out loud. It makes more sense.)