

# St. Mary's Messenger

SEPTEMBER, 2011

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## The Gratitude Issue...

### What a summer!!

We're very grateful that September has finally crested the horizon. School has started, and with that is a type of energy and excitement that can only come from seeing new (and old) students walk in the door. For us, fall represents "new beginnings" - of possibilities, new ideas, and a fresh start. (There is something magical about kids with fresh haircuts and clean white gym socks!).

St. Mary's also has a lot of "new beginnings" and a lot to be grateful for. Our parish family is watching the construction of our new corner foundation, we are planning this year's youth programs, and saying hello to new friends and visitors on Sunday. We need to acknowledge that we have worked hard and reached some really impressive goals:

- \* Columbarium
- \* Stained Glass Windows
- \* New Playground Equipment
- \* Tutoring Program
- \* Relay for Life Winner
- \* His Kids Ministry
- \* Chelsey's Glasses
- \* New Knitting Classes
- \* St. Mary's Messenger
- \* Camp Allen Camp
- \* 8 Core Bible Stories
- \* 1st in Christmas Nativity float
- \* Trash Pickup

These are just some of the activities and achievements that St Mary's has accomplished this year. Just as important are this years' baptisms, anniversaries, and end-of-life celebrations that have provided us the opportunity to gather together and reflect on God's blessings. We all should acknowledge a job well done, and be grateful for all we have been given.



On a personal note, Tom and I have welcomed our first grandson (Jeremiah will turn 1 year old in a few days!) and have taught Camille to ride a bike. We have taken a more active role in our church and have learned a LOT about Episcopalian beliefs (*thank you, Ann, for teaching us about Episcopalian rosaries!*). This year we have also learned how to apply bible teachings to our lives, eaten some amazing potluck food, served dinner to Lampasas youth, and picked up a ton of trash on Highway 190. We have our health, we have a home, a car that runs, and...a parish family that accepts and welcomes us - in other words - YOU. Like we said - a LOT to be grateful for.

*Tom and Mary*

# GET **FAT** - HAVE *Fun* - SUPPORT OUR **BOY SCOUTS!**

**Eric Williams** will be selling Boy Scout popcorn from 29 Aug-20 Oct 2011. Eric can be reached at [512-556-6179](tel:512-556-6179). *(Oh Man, Eric - Tom is putting you on SPEED DIAL! We should all order a truck-load of popcorn and then hold a STAR TREK marathon in the Parish Hall (sure beats going outside in these temperatures! Movie night is Wednesday, September 21. What do you say??)*

*(PS: Popcorn counts as "roughage" - so it's healthy!!)*

## Survey for Proposed Bishop Suffragan Election

*Hey - this is Mary talking...take a minute to do this survey (the "click here" is a live link and will take you to the survey site.) It's important - and AMAZING that the "head honcho's" want to know what we think. I don't know when was the last time Pope Benedict wanted my opinion...!*

Bishop Doyle intends to ask the 163rd Diocesan Council to approve the election of a bishop suffragan for the eastern area of our diocese. The hope is that the election would take place on June 2, 2012. A walkabout to meet candidates is set tentatively for May 12, 2012 at Camp Allen. If all goes as planned, the candidate who is elected will go to the General Convention for approval in July 2012.

Please take a brief survey that will provide important information to elected delegates and help prepare questions that will be asked of candidates. **[Click here to take the survey online.](#)** A print copy of the survey and a letter from the Bishop are available [here in English and Spanish](#). You can also [download a bulletin insert here](#).

*I took the survey in less than a minute. It worked immediately...I'm serious - do it NOW. [Thanks!:](#))*

## Church News Update

The weekly church email "News & Reminders" was sent out TUESDAY, AUGUST 30.

It has come to our attention that some people are suddenly not getting their weekly email from the church email entitled "News & Reminders". We are trying to get this straightened out. If you are not receiving this reminder on Tuesdays, please let us know (email us at: [office@ourstmarys.org](mailto:office@ourstmarys.org) - or tell us in person or by calling 512-556-5433). (be sure to check your spam/trash folder) Hopefully we will get this taken care of soon.

Thank you for your help.

*Marie and Julisha*

# From the Rector...



How do we begin our days? Do we roll out of bed just in time to get the children off to school or ourselves off to work? If that is the case, what do we think about on our way to where ever it is that we are going?

The world that we live in is one that is fast and furious. We have meetings, work, PTA, soccer, band...(insert your own personal favorite.) These activities seem to be endless and somewhere in the midst of this we try and “fit” God in as best we can. We have good intentions, we really *mean* to talk to God...but things crowd into our lives and then all of a sudden, it is 9:00 or 10:00 at night and we are worn out and ready for bed. I understand all of this, but more importantly God understands it. Even so, we are called to a life of prayer, to a life of constant communion with God.

Paul in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17 tells the people of Thessalonica to “...pray continually...” and to “...give thanks for all things...” How do we pray continually in the middle of our busy schedules **and** be thankful for the busyness of our lives? We can accomplish this by starting each day in prayer - prayer with God alone. The trick is to find some time and space where we *can* be alone with God. That time and space can be with words or it can be in silence, but it needs to be with and for communication with God. I use the word “communication” because it is a two way process - not one way. We are to not only place before God our concerns, and thanksgivings, we must also **listen** to God.

Edith Stein was a Jew who converted to Christianity on January 1, 1922. After her conversion she became a Carmelite Nun and escaped from Nazi Germany by entering Holland. But after that country came under the rule of the Nazis, Sr. Edith was arrested on August 2, 1942 and transported to Auschwitz, where she was executed in a gas chamber on August 9, 1942. One of her writings was *The First Hour Every Morning*:

*“The duties and cares of the day crowd about us when we awake each day – if they have not already dispelled our nights rest. How can everything be accommodated in one day? When will I do this, when that? How will it be accomplished? Thus, agitated, we are tempted to run and rush. And so we must take the reins in hand and remind ourselves, “Let go of your plans. The first hour of your morning belongs to God. Tackle the day’s work that he charges you with, and he will give you the power to accomplish it.”*

Edith Stein was a nun who lived in a convent and her “work” was to pray. While that is our “work” also, it is not our only work. Does an hour with God seem like too much? Are you concerned that your “beauty rest” will have to be cut short in order to spend some quiet, quality time with God at the beginning of your day? It would be easy to say that we don’t need to spend that much time in communion with God at the start of our day. But maybe that is what we need to do... after all, how much time does God spend on us? Maybe it’s time that we gave at least that hour back to God.

When we don’t begin our day with prayer first, then it is likely to be one of drudgery and confusion. If we begin our day in conversation with God, then we will find our days and schedules to be more manageable. We will be able to find joy in everything. We need to do our God work, which is prayer, first. When we do, we will be able to find God **and** joy in the rest of the day regardless of what happens.

*Fr. Reid*

(To learn more about Edith Stein: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith\\_Stein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Stein))

**\*\*\* I'm grateful for ...TEMPERATURES OVER 100 \*\*\***

Okay - I admit it. The Texas heat this summer has fried my brain. Last I figured it, we had over 68 days of 100+ temperatures. To make life more bearable, I've compiled a list of good things about "over 100". This is what I've come up with so far...

1. Clothes dry on the line in 15 minutes or less (quicker than electric dryer)
2. No chiggers - because no grass!
3. No lawn or garden means: more free time, less backaches, clean fingernails
4. I don't have to worry about what I look like in a bathing suit because it is too hot to swim.
5. We've seen more movies this summer than ever before (Rise of Planet of Apes was AWFUL..!)
6. Less mold (my sister suggested that...thanks, Nan! )
7. I don't notice my hot flashes as much - because I am ALWAYS sweating
8. Attended my first ZUMBA class (too hot to jog)
9. Less laundry to do (we sit around in our birthday suit or underwear)
10. Tom and I are now Dairy Queen experts



## COLUMBARUM NEWS

Our Columbarium has been completed with the consecration service on Sunday, August 21, 2011. About 60 family and friends attended the service and later the reception. Several made a point of sharing their appreciation of the service, the structure, and its addition to our family of buildings. Along with blessing the columbarium, Fr. Reid also officiated at the reinterment of 16 individuals.



Sid Wieser was interred on Monday, August 29 and Ethel Woodby was interred on Tuesday, August 30, 2011. Who could have known that we were meeting the needs of some many parishoners ? We appreciate the support of the parish in our vision and now the reality of the new Columbarium.

We have 13 niches left in the center section to be sold. If you are considering a niche, please speak with Libby, Kathleen or Father Reid. We would be happy to answer any of your questions. We are able to offer a time payment plan to meet your financial needs, and want to help you plan your future at St. Mary's.



# HIS KIDS MINISTRY

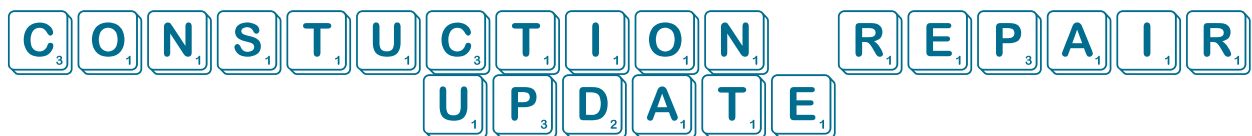
Tony the Tiger says, "THEY ARE GREAT!"

We served about 50 children and some 6-8 adults on Monday, August 22, 2011. We got them right where they live....with chicken tenders....Yep....fried chicken tenders! (Some came back for seconds and thirds!) I wanted to do the same - but restrained because I am at the age where my clogged arteries may already be on overdrive (*Libby - you're crazy and beautiful and very healthy. Go ahead and hunker down with a plateful!*) We are conscious of healthy eating and try to serve His Kids healthy food but sometimes you need to feed them what they will eat.....so green beans and macaroni were served, along with fruit.

These children are very comfortable with St. Mary's volunteers. We now know lots of them by name and the familiar friendships allow us to wiggle into their comfort zone. They laugh, tease, smile and genuinely seem happy to let us laugh, tease and smile with them. They listen so intently to the lessons each week and we get so much from them as the Lord is working through those children back to us. When I leave, I feel richer and content to know that the time we shared is heavy with love and understanding. I love them where they're at and understand that they come to us as they are, children of God. They may have a different environment at home but they love the attention on Monday nights. If you haven't been able to serve these children you're missing a grand opportunity to see life from a child's perspective. They are an open book and we're blessed to be turning a happy page in their memories. Come join us, you will be surprised.....

**HIS KIDS ROCKS**

*Libby, Linda and the Gang*



*(DOES THIS LOOK LIKE BLOCKS? I KNOW IT IS SCRABBLE LETTERS, BUT I WAS TRYING TO GET SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE CONSTRUCTION BLOCKS OR BRICKS...OH WELL!)*

Work on the stabilization has started today and they expect it be finished with that hole in the ground part by the end of the week. Robert Oliver told Tom that the repairmen were really happy to see how strong the foundation concrete was...it made their job a LOT easier!!

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 4: Collection for Lampasas Mission (*bring food stuff and clothing to church*)

September 7: Potluck from 6:30-7pm.....Eight Core Stories of Bible from 7-8pm

September 11: (*busy day - 3 things!!*)

1- **Christian Formation** at 8:45 (*Hey, "reformed" Catholics - this means Sunday School*)

2- **9-11 Commemorative** event after 10am service.

3- **Prayer Shawl and Bible Study**

September 14: Vestry meeting @ 6:30

September 21: Movie Night (potluck at 6pm...movie starts at 6:30...ERIC and POPCORN!)

September 25: Prayer Shawl and Bible Study

September 26: His Kid's Ministry (*5:30-ish at Holiday House*)

*Just a quiet thought.....*

*Two more blessings to be grateful for:*

***Will Mezger** - a miracle in our parish family*

***Sid Weiser** - we were blessed with this giant of a man. Sid will be missed!*

## CRACK A SMILE – and BE GRATEFUL!

*(Mary Halvorson sent me this and I have been laughing ever since. Hope you think it is as funny as I do! Thanks, #1!)*

There was a little old lady, who every morning stepped onto her front porch, raised her arms to the sky, and shouted: **'PRAISE THE LORD!'**

One day an atheist moved into the house next door. He became irritated at the little old lady. Every morning he'd step onto his front porch after her and yell: **'THERE IS NO LORD!'**

Time passed with the two of them carrying on this way every day.

One morning, in the middle of winter, the little old lady stepped onto her front porch and shouted: **'PRAISE THE LORD! Please Lord, I have no food and I am starving, provide for me, oh Lord!'**

The next morning she stepped out onto her porch and there were two huge bags

of groceries sitting there.

**'PRAISE THE LORD!' she cried out. 'HE HAS PROVIDED GROCERIES FOR ME!'**

The atheist neighbor jumped out of the hedges and shouted:

**'THERE IS NO LORD; I BOUGHT THOSE GROCERIES!!'**

The little old lady threw her arms into the air and shouted:

**'PRAISE THE LORD! HE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH GROCERIES AND MADE THE DEVIL PAY FOR THEM!'**

## Good Summer Recipe!

*I copied this from the USA Weekend magazine last Sunday. It was easy and REALLY good! My sisters made the recipe too (they were in the middle of Hurricane Irene and had nothing else to do!). Afterwards we compared notes.*

### **Summer Fruit and Sweet Cream Cheese Galettes**

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened  
½ cup confectioners' sugar  
3 Tbs. cornstarch, divided  
1 whole egg, separated  
2 Tbs. sugar, plus a little extra for sprinkling  
1 tsp. vanilla extract *or* ¼ teaspoon almond extract  
1 refrigerated pie crust from 14.1-ounce box  
2 cups fruit (pick 1 or mix thinly sliced plums, peeled peaches and apricots; or mixed berries, such as blackberries, blueberries and raspberries)

#### **Directions:**

Adjust oven rack to lowest position and heat oven to 400 degrees.

Mix cream cheese, confectioner' sugar, 2 tablespoons of the cornstarch, and the egg yolk in medium bowl. In a separate medium bowl mix fruit, 2 tablespoons of sugar, remaining tablespoon of cornstarch, and vanilla or almond extract.

Unfurl pie dough on a lightly floured surface and roll to about 13-inches in diameter. Slide onto a cookie sheet or pizza pan and spread evenly with cream cheese mixture, leaving a 2-inch border. Scatter fruit evenly over cream cheese mixture. Fold pastry border over the fruit. Brush dough perimeter with egg white and sprinkle with a little sugar.

Bake galette until golden brown and bubbly, about 30 minutes. Loosen with a metal spatula and slide onto a wire rack to cool slightly. Serve warm.

#### **Yield:**

*6 servings made with mixed berries*