

THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



DECEMBER 2016

Mission Statement

"Celebrating God's Love Found in The Word, People and Creation"



Stewardship

Our Stewardship campaign has begun. Pledge cards were passed out Sunday, November 20th or sent in the mail during that week. We will have an ingathering and blessing of the pledges on December 11th. If possible, please return your cards by then. You can place them in the offertory plate any Sunday or mail them to the church at PO Box 786. We will take them, even after Dec. 11th. Your financial pledge is a personal matter and only the treasurer will see your card.

Stewardship is not only the pledging of money but also our time and talent to the service of God. It is our way of thanking God for all his blessings. There are several ways you can devote your time and talent to Saint Mary's and so many do. No devotion to this church is too small or meaningless, and all are appreciated. We have parishioners serve as worship leaders, readers, greeters, vestry members, and youth leaders. But we also have others who offer special prayers, supply our kitchen and altar guild needs, send cards to parishioners, offer a helping hand, cook, sew, and are always there. If you would like to give of your time and talent, write what you would like to do on your pledge card or see Karen or Dani. If you have any new ideas, let us know, and if possible, we will help you make them come true.



Update on Peter

This is an email sent by Susan on Thursday, December 1st

Hi All,

Peter has seen his Neurologist (Dr. Lai) and Oncologist (Dr. Heyne) this week after he had an MRI on [Monday](#).

Doctors are pleasantly surprised (shocked) that the tumor is gone. There is still scar tissue damage around the site, but the Neurologist was very optimistic that there would be continued improvement of the Parkinsonism syndrome and the somnolence syndrome, and was impressed with the improvements in walking and balance he saw this week. The last time Dr. Lai saw Peter was after his last Chemo back in June when he was being released from the hospital with oxygen and needing skilled nursing because he couldn't walk without assistance and had suffered lung damage from one of the chemo drugs.

Dr. Lai told him to increase mental and physical activity a little each day. Playing memory games, reading, music, talking to people etc... Also highly recommended the PBS show Sit and Be Fit. We both laughed because I tried to get Peter to do that a few weeks ago and he was less than enthusiastic. I told Dr. Lai if he told him to do it he might, but Peter just tells me no.

So according to Dr. Lai he is to concentrate on getting stronger and stimulating his brain as much as possible in the next 3 to 4 months and thought there is a possibility that he could go back to work if he continued to get stronger and walk and see better.

Peter told me after the Doctor left that this was the first time he felt that all the treatments and pain and suffering might not have been in vain after all. Which made me very happy because he is now highly motivated to do Sit and Be Fit!

As expected the oncologist, Dr. Heyne was more cautiously optimistic but thought if the lesions stay away he could recover and liken it to a stroke type recovery that would take time for full functioning to return.

So Peter is going to try and give it his all in the next few months and we will see how far he can recover. He wants to be back to work by his next Birthday [April 4th, 2017](#).

Peter is through with all Chemo and Radiation treatments. He will just continue to monitor blood counts and symptoms and continue Physical Therapy and Voice Therapy.

Honoring Our Military



Thank you for all your generous donations to honor our military personnel on Veterans' Day. We were able to purchase 9 VISA gift cards in the amount of \$35 each. We also sent along the individual cards written by our parishioners as well as a card from Saint Mary's. A thank you card has been received from John Brockway and his family which is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall. When more cards are received, they will be posted on the board as well.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:30 pm with Father Jim Morgan as our celebrant. The service will include a presentation by our youth. Following the service, the vestry will provide refreshments in the parish hall. If you need a ride to the service, please leave a message at the church (345-3456) or contact Karen or Dani. Come join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to donate to the Christmas flower fund, please place your donation in the offering plate before Dec. 22 and mark it Christmas flowers.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE

In the parish hall, there is a Christmas tree which we will decorate on the last Sunday of Advent, December 18th. To decorate the tree, we are asking everyone to bring one or more ornaments from their home, so that your family Christmas will be part of our church family Christmas. We don't want you to buy any ornaments, but just bring those extra ornaments that just won't fit on your tree anymore. It would also be great if your children want to make an ornament. If you are not here on December 18th, bring your ornaments on Christmas Eve and add them to the tree. The tree will stay up until Epiphany, which is 12 days after Christmas.



The History of Saint Mary's Stained Glass Windows (Part 2)

This information is taken from **A Sermon In Glass** given during the dedication of the windows on Sunday, December 16, 1973.

The Clerestory windows in the chancel above the organ form a colorful pattern symbolizing the changing colors of the liturgical year. They form a harmonizing link to the rest of the church by admitting light from their bright and warm symmetrical patterns.

The Nave Windows – West Side

First Window – The Creating Hand of God

In the beginning God created . . . and God saw everything that He had made and behold it was good. Gen. 1:31

Of old Thou didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. Psalm 102:25

The symbol throughout the Old Testament of the Almighty power of God, the hand of the Creator signifies also the Father who provides, sustains, guides, chastens, protects, and comforts His people.



Community Assistance

During the month of November, the community assistance committee provided aid to two organizations that benefit West Columbia's citizens. A donation was made for the community-wide Thanksgiving dinner held on Sunday, November 13th. The second donation was made to the West Columbia Volunteer Fire Department. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.

Abigail Roddy won 3rd place for her Fire Prevention Art Poster for pre-k and kindergarten at West Columbia Elementary.

Haley Cantrell is the secretary for the West Columbia Elementary Student Council.

Aaron Mikel's football team, the Sweeny Bulldogs, won their first playoff game.

Reesie Cantrell is a member of the West Columbia Elementary Student Council.

Brayze is a member of the West Columbia Elementary Student Council. He will be competing in the Jr. NFR in Las Vegas beginning November 30th.

Piper Roddy's cheer team won 1st place youth level 1 and 1st place senior level 2.



Donations for the Military



In our parish hall there is a container by the door for donations to the West of the Brazos Military Support Group. Rees Sweeny, a member of our congregation, is involved in this organization. This organization

supports all military branches and sends packages throughout the year to our service personnel overseas. Please consider picking up a few extra items in your weekly shopping to donate to this worthy cause. You can leave the items in the container at church and Rees will pick them up. Let's make this an ongoing outreach program for our church. There is a list of items on the bulletin board above the container. Please take one. Cash donations are also accepted.

A FEW SUGGESTED ITEMS

writing tablets, pens, disposable razors, hand lotion, small packages of Q-tips, wash cloths, chap stick with sun block, toilet paper, magazines, soap bars, crossword puzzles, white socks

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 4 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
December 4 - Canon Ryan celebrates the Eucharist
December 4 – EYC (5:00)
December 6 – DOK (9:30)
December 11 –blessing of the pledges
December 11 – practice for Christmas program
December 11 - EYC (5:00)
December 18 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
December 18 – practice for Christmas program
December 18 - EYC (5:00)
December 22 – DOK trip to Brookwood
December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7:30
December 25 – no service

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

George Grosvenor – Dec. 7
Adam Schill – Dec. 10
Jennifer Schill – Dec. 12
Trace Roddy – Dec. 12
Daniel Mikel – Dec. 19
Jennifer Mikel – Dec. 21
Yamilett Craig – Dec. 21
Dani Mikel – Dec. 22
Kirby Rapstein – Dec. 31

Rector	Peter Conaty
Sr. Warden	Karen Logue (kklogue@msn.com)
Jr. Warden	Dan Roddy (dkroddy@earthlink.net)
Clerk	Marvin Miller (mginstructions@earthlink.net)
Treasurer	Dani Mikel (danimikel87@yahoo.com)
Organist	Kathy Molnar



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Holly and Tommy Cantrell – Dec. 2
Colleen and Clint Matocha – Dec. 19
Tracy and Brian Lane – Dec. 29