

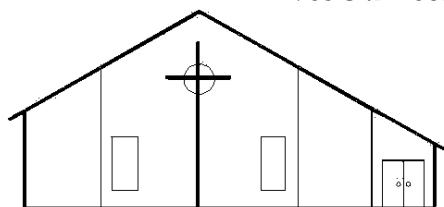
# The Bells of St. Mary's



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## IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS MISSING

A Faith Story, by Mary Kay Lynch

I was a good Catholic girl. I went to Catholic grade school, had a big Catholic wedding, and had my three children baptized into the Catholic faith. I didn't eat meat on Fridays during Lent, I gave my contribution every week and I taught CCD on Wednesday nights. And almost every Sunday, I went to mass. I was doing all the right things. So why did it feel like something was missing? How can I possibly feel lonely in a parish of two thousand people?

The answer came from a 70-something Episcopalian lady, who knocked on my door last spring. As a reporter for the local newspaper, I sometimes have people stop by my house with advertisements. The Episcopalian lady had been by a few times with ads for her church. I had no idea what the Episcopal Church faith was about. In my upbringing, I learned that under the Christian heading, there were Catholics, and there were non-Catholics. Baptist, Lutheran...they were all lumped together into that second category.

One pretty spring day, there she was again, the Episcopalian lady. She always looked so cheerful and kind. What is her religion all about? I'll have to look it up online sometime, or maybe check it out in the library. Or...how dumb would I seem if I just asked?

"What does Episcopalian mean?" I asked her that day. "What kind of church is it?" "Well," she said. "We're not very different from you at all." She explained how the Episcopalians were part of the Anglican Communion, which had been part of the Roman Catholic Church. She pointed out some of the differences, but also the many similarities.

"You'll just have to come join us sometime," she said with a smile. "Our Sunday service is at 9. Anyone is welcome to come and worship with us."

The invitation left a warm spot on my heart all week. When Saturday came, my husband and children asked me what I wanted for Mother's Day, which was the following day. "Don't buy me anything this year." I said. "I just want us all to try a new church that we've been invited to. That can be my gift." The following morning, we headed north out of our driveway instead of south. We found St. Paul's Episcopal Church, just a few miles from home. The 123-year-old, small white building with its welcoming red front door stood out against the pretty blue sky.

As we entered the church, I could tell we were the only ones who didn't know anybody. There were only about 40 people in the tiny church. As I wondered where we should sit, I wished for a moment that we hadn't come. We don't belong here, I thought. But, wait...people are turning around with smiles, and with eyes lit up like they're happy to see us!

"Good morning, we're so glad you're joining us today!" a woman at the door said, handing us a bulletin. Then there was Marion, the one who first invited me, waving from the front with a smile. "Glad you came!" She whispered. Others made room and found us a pew to sit in.

The bell rang, and Father Jim Conrad walked out to the altar. As the opening hymn began. His eyes roved fondly over the congregation, settled on us for a moment, and he smiled in welcome

I was comforted by the familiarity of the mass. This was the same mass that had always been an important part of my life, culminating in the precious communion of our Lord's Body and Blood.

Father Jim called all women up to the front. "You, too!" a few women beckoned to me. He handed us each a pink carnation, and gave us a special blessing for Mother's Day. I was amazed at how these people, only one who knew my name, included me as one of them. I felt just as welcome at the altar as if I had attended St. Paul's my whole life.

My heart was full as we drove back home. Is it possible to fall in love with a church? But I'm Catholic. Can I just switch? Is it as easy as that? But wait – my husband would never consider abandoning our Catholic faith. "So, what did you think?" I asked him. "Let's switch," he said. So we did.

Now, a year later, I can't imagine life without St. Paul's. I have been elected to serve a three-year term on the Vestry, and I am chairperson of the Outreach Committee. *All because of one person's invitation.*

In churches all across the country, there are committees full of good people concerned with increasing their congregation size. But we must always remember the true secret to parish growth – *a simple invitation, a smile and an outstretched hand.*

**A Story from the National Church Website submitted by Karen Heacock**

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## **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER FOR YOUR INFORMATION...**

Your pledges are very important to St. Mary's annual budget. Submission of your annual pledge sheets assist in planning for upcoming expenses in the year ahead. We not only rely on your financial support, but also depend upon the Diocese and special gifts and offerings from others.

In addition to monetary gifts, a number of people donate items such as paper products, wine, office supplies, items for Ed's people, items for soldiers, our Sunday school, etc. It is important to keep track of these items as well as your monetary gifts, as it is a good indicator of what it takes to "run" the church. So please be sure to give me copies of receipts so that these can be added to your pledge count as non-cash donations. Please note that non-cash donations should not be used as substitutes for the monetary pledges. Because our membership is small, we depend upon every dollar that is pledged to support our church.

Thank you for your support of St. Mary's, both in dollars and in deeds. Without each of you, we would not be able to continue our outreach and/or our presence in Morgan County.

Respectfully,  
Deb Bunton

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## **SOUP AND SALAD LENTEN SUPPERS WITH EUCHARIST**

Attention all....The Rev. Ione Boedt has graciously offered to lead us in a short Eucharist and soup and salad Lenten Supper on [Wednesday](#) evenings. Please mark your calendars for March 11-18-25 and April 01, 2009 at 7 pm.

Plan to join us as we prepare for Holy Week and the Glory of Easter.

## SOUP RECIPES SERVED BY RITA WENTZ FOR THE MARCH 11 SOUP AND SALAD/EUCHARIST LENTEN SUPPER

### Chicken and Corn Chowder with Sweet Potatoes

3 cups whole milk  
1-cup yellow corn muffin mix (like Jiffy)  
2 TBS unsalted butter  
1 onion chopped fine  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
½ tsp ground cumin  
½ tsp dried oregano  
2 quarts chicken broth (low-sodium)  
1 ½ lbs. chicken breast (cut into ½ inch pieces)  
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
2 sweet potatoes (about 1 ½ lbs peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces)  
3 cups frozen corn (not thawed)  
½ cup chopped fresh parsley  
Salt and Pepper to taste

1. Mix milk and muffin mix in bowl until well combined. Heat butter in large Dutch oven until foaming. Add onion and cook until softened, about eight minutes over medium flame. Stir in garlic, cumin, oregano and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add broth, chicken and sweet potatoes. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until sweet potatoes are tender.
2. Stir in milk and muffin mixture and simmer until the soup thickens, about ten minutes. Add cheese and corn and cook until cheese begins to melt, about 2 minutes. Stir in parsley and season with salt and pepper. (Soup can be refrigerated in airtight container for up to 3 days.)

### Tortilla Soup

Crisp tortillas: Heat oven to 375 degrees. Julienne 8 six inch yellow corn tortillas into quarter inch strips. Spread on sheet pan and dry out in oven about 10 to 12 minutes until crispy. I mix them up about half way through the baking. I also make a second batch to have for soup garnish or buy a package of tortilla strips.

3 T canola oil  
1 ½ TBS ground cumin  
1 T paprika  
½ tsp cayenne pepper  
1 T chili powder  
1 bay leaf  
2 cups chopped onions  
6 cloves garlic minced  
2 T salt (I use less)  
3 T chopped cilantro  
6 cups chicken stock or water  
1 14.5 can chopped tomatoes  
1 can Rotel tomatoes with chilies  
2 to 3 cups chicken breast cut into dice  
2 cans beans, rinsed and drained,  
(any kind-I used black and white beans)  
Monterey Jack or cheddar cheese for garnish

Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the tortilla chips, onions, garlic, spices and chili powder; sauté for five minutes. Add the salt and 2 T cilantro and sauté 2 minutes more. Add the stock and tomatoes. Simmer for 30 minutes over low heat. Remove the bay leaf and puree the mixture with an immersion blender until smooth. (If you use a blender or food processor, cool the soup a bit before you start.) Add the chicken, beans and remaining cilantro. Simmer until chicken is cooked. Serve with crisp tortilla chips, cheese and avocado.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS/GUEST CELEBRANTS/LAY LEADERS

March 25	7:00 Lenten Eucharist/Soup and Supper with Rev. Ione Boodt
March 29	9:30 Worship with Rev. Ione Boodt
April 1	7:00 Lenten Eucharist/Soup and Supper with Rev. Ione Boodt
April 5	9:30 Liturgy of the Palms with Rev. Ione Boodt 3:00 – 6:00 Pysanky Decoration – Ukrainian As in the past, we will be decoration eggs in the traditional Pysanky method. All materials, including eggs, will be provided. Adults will need to supervise their children's efforts, as this is not a child-friendly craft. Joanne Stuttgart will be expert-in-residence for those with questions.
April 9	7:00 Maundy Thursday Service tentatively scheduled with Rev. Mike Oshry
April 10	6:00 Seder Supper with Ben and Julie Hall- Please join us for a Seder Supper. Ben and Julie Hall will be our hosts, and will explain the different elements of this traditional meal, which is served at Passover each year. In addition to the Seder Supper, there will be a pitch-in meal. A list of suggested kosher dishes and foods will be posted for people to sign up to bring for the dinner. Following the supper, Stations of the Cross will be said for those who wish to remain.
April 12	9:30 Easter Service with Rev. Mike Oshry Easter Egg Hunt following the service
April 19	9:30 Worship with Rev. Mike Oshry
April 26	9:30 Morning Prayer TBD
May 3	9:30 worship with Rev. Ione Boodt
May 10	9:30 Worship with Rev. Mike Oshry
May 17	9:30 Worship with Rev. David Purvis
May 24	9:30 Worship with Rev. Mike Oshry
May 31	9:30 Pentecost Service in the Park with Rev. Ione Boodt

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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March 28	Nancy Gilberti	April 29	Deb and Terry Bunton
April 4	Courtney Moore	May 3	Aryn Lamey
April 7	Dan Drake	May 14	Eric Moler
April 13	Jeni Whitaker	May 15	Josie Whitaker
April 15	Joseph Moore	May 16	Eric and Theresa Moler
April 20	Rita Wentz	May 22	Allen and Karen Heacock
April 27	Randy Guy	May 26	Will Sayre

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## MORGAN COUNTY

“Step it Up” for a healthier Morgan County? It was in the Reporter-Times the other day and seems like a good idea. Check out the website, <http://www.healthiermorgancounty.org>. to register. Karen Heacock is the team leader and the name of the group is St. Mary's Steppers. Sign up is March 26-27 and it begins on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know if you are on the team so I can make up a chart. There are no fees for this program.

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## **SEDER SUPPER APRIL 10 @ 6:00**

Everything for the Passover must be Kosher. Passover has special Kosher rules so it has to be super Kosher.

Here are some rules. If fish is brought, it must be fish with fins and scales. No shellfish, no catfish, no shrimp. Chicken and beef are Kosher. Pork is not, so no ham or bacon (even if it's used as a garnish) and no bread made with yeast. Deb and Peggy will get a sign up sheet together so that we are sure to have some of everything.

Some Suggestions:

- Fresh fruit
  - Vegetable pasta salad
  - A soup or stew (navy beans without ham)
  - Cooked chicken or beef
  - Steamed vegetables
  - Mashed potatoes
  - Stovetop stuffing
  - Rice
  - Olives and pickles
  - Vegetables and dip
  - Cranberry salad (or similar)
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## **EVANGELISM – WHAT'S IN THE WORKS**

Steve Speth reports that he is looking into several projects.

1. Relay for Life for St. Mary's to participate. This is a way to increase community visibility, parish enthusiasm and support a good cause. This was presented at the announcements Sunday, March 22 and was met with wholehearted enthusiasm. The event takes place June 6 and runs for 24 hours. We would need to have walkers to cover the whole time. Each participant should try to donate \$10 to start the fundraising for our team. Other donations can be solicited from family, friends and co-workers. There will also be fund raising events such as a yard sale for the St. Mary's team. More information will follow.
  2. Habitat for Humanity. How can we participate with muscle and/or donations? More information will follow.
  3. Father Mike to discuss answers for question we might receive when we ask people to come join us at St. Mary's.
    - Why should I try St. Mary's?
    - What is the Episcopal Church all about?
    - (really tough one) Why should I believe in Christianity?
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## **BOUDREAUX'S LENT**

Each Friday night after work, Boudreaux would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak. But, all of Boudreaux's neighbors were Catholic...and since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday.

The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their Priest.

The Priest came to visit Boudreaux, and suggested that he become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Boudreaux attended Mass, and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, "You were born a Baptist, and raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic."

Boudreaux's neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood.

The Priest was called immediately by the neighbors, and, as he rushed into Boudreaux's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement. There stood Boudreaux, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: "You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but now you is a catfish."

**SUBMITTED BY DALE DRAKE**

## MARDI GRAS PARTY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

There is always a King Cake and who ever finds the baby is the one to host the next party. This years party was hosted by Courtney Moore. Logan Moore and maybe Nate Payne found the baby so we may have co-hosts next year. Due to weather the party was held on Sunday after church instead of Saturday night. Everyone had a really good time. The children had to create their masks and dress themselves up in beads, masks and hats. Payton Drake was the first to finish and Gabby was the winner of most creative.



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