

Lent  
Wednesday  
Service &  
Soup 6pm

# St. Mary's Messenger

Lampasas, TX

## Bishop Andy on Lent:

In Mark 10, verse 26 the disciples ask Jesus, "...Who can be saved?" Jesus then says to them, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

This passage has been much on my mind as I have prepared for my own Lenten journey. I reflected on the spiritual work of Lent and realized what a miserable failure I have been when it comes to keeping my Lenten promises. Sure, I have succeeded well enough at times, but for the most part Lent has been and will be, I suspect, an exercise of failure for me. That is, if I continue to see keeping those promises as successful only if I don't backslide for 40 days pass! For example, can I stop eating pizza and soda for 40 days? I don't know ... I might slip up. Can I stop eating chocolate or drinking wine? Whatever it is that I choose to set aside this Lent – I know I am doomed.

I believe that it is this failure that is the reason many people don't attempt any Lenten discipline at all. Smart and successful people (people in general – in my estimation) don't like to fail. In Chris Argyris' book *Teaching Smart People How to Learn*, the author describes the stumbling block as: failure. Argyris' thesis is that smart and successful people stop learning because they stop failing. Success, it seems, breeds an inability to experiment and fail.

Yet, **it is in the failing that we learn.** I would argue that as a culture we are bent on success to the point that any brush with failure cannot be tolerated. And so it comes to pass that we really don't see any benefit from the discipline of Lent because we fail at it most times. That is, at least, my hypothesis.

So, where I have arrived on this Lenten Eve, perched at my computer awaiting my promised failure and the day of ashes, is this: failure may in fact be the point of Lent. Our season of preparation is a season in which we are invited to fail, and so be reminded that while perfect piety is as impossible for us as it was for our wandering Aramean ancestors (the Hebrews), such spiritual work is not impossible for God; for in God all things are possible.

Our Ash Wednesday Gospel lesson, and the lesson for the first Sunday in Lent this year, comes from Mark's Gospel chapter 1, beginning at the ninth verse. In this passage we are given a vision of Jesus as "the Messiah, the Christ to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life." (BCP 306). He is God's Son, his beloved and God is pleased in him – as he was pleased with the first man, Adam. God's Holy Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where he will thirst and hunger, where he will be tempted and where he will not fail. In fact he will burst forth into Galilee, strengthened

by his journey and proclaim the good news of salvation; saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Lent is a time of sharing the good news that our salvation rests in the hand of God, in the Grace of God. Our salvation does not depend upon us. Our failing teaches us this. Our failing at Lenten disciplines is exactly what these 40 days are meant to be about. It is in attempting to succeed that we discover our minds and hearts are able to receive the message of "pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith." (Preface to a holy Lent, BCP, 265)

So I encourage you to join me in boldly taking on and setting aside through discipline those things that will challenge us and will eventually bring us to failure. I challenge you to so aim at success that your failure will be outstanding ... So that you and I might, as pilgrims, make our way through a holy Lent where we will be reminded that our salvation is not in our hands, but in the hand of God and the Grace of God. It may be that if you are not failing in Lent, you may not be trying hard enough ...

Bishop  
Andy  
Doyle



Now you can access the Texas EpiCenter website from your iPhone or Android smart phone! If your smartphone is capable of reading QR barcodes, aim at the barcode to the left to go directly to this app. If not, then visit this link on your smartphone.

<http://wbxapp.com/texasdiocese>

## From the Rector's Desk...

By the time you read this we will have entered completely into the Season of Lent. This is the season of examination, the season where we look at our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is also a time of examining our relation to the church, the Body of Christ here on Earth. Our community of St. Mary's has another opportunity in our time of examination. We have the opportunity of looking at our responsibility in the building up the community of the faithful, the church. I believe that this Lenten Season will be a good time to examine our commitment to the process of being "church". What is God calling each one of us to in this work? Where can my gifts be used to the best effect? What can I do that I have not already done? Who can I invite to church on Sunday morning or evening, or Tuesday Eucharist and Bible study, or our Wednesday Night gathering during Lent? When can I talk about my relationship with God as I am in conversation with my friends? How can I be faithful to this work done in community?



These questions will be worthy of our time and prayer this Lent. During our times of quiet introspection in these 40 days I encourage us to sit quietly with these questions and listen for God's "still small voice" in the midst of the silence. Indeed it is a silence that we will need to carve out of our busy days. But I am sure that if we each take the time to find the silence we will also find God and in finding God we will find our answers to our questions.

I also want to bring to your attention a little used or talked about sacrament in our Prayer Book, The Reconciliation of a Penitent which begins on page 446. Out of all the churches of the Reformation, the Anglican Church is the only one that did not do away with private confession, but it was not until our 1979 Book of Common Prayer that a rite was included in our official book.

Many people do not even know that the Episcopal Church has a rite for confession, but we do. I used to associate sacramental confession with acts of penance. That is, having to perform some type of "punishment" given by the priest for the sins that I had committed. But penance, in the Episcopal Church, is not what the Rite of Reconciliation is about. The picture that I had of a priest at confession is one of separation. The priest sat behind a screen with a purple stole on as "he" heard confessions and gave out penance, so many "Our Fathers" or some other form of devotion that follows the pronouncement of absolution. That is my understanding of confession from my youth and early adulthood, a picture fueled by movies of Roman Catholic priests, in the confessional, listening to the sins of the faithful.

The word reconciliation gives us a clue to our understanding of sacramental confession. We understand this rite as one of restoration to the grace of baptism, grace that has become impaired, on our part, as a result of our actions. The rite may be done anywhere. It has been my experience that the rite is done in the church face to face with my priest being vested with a white stole which symbolizes baptism and other festival occasions in the church. The priest may give counsel or some form of direction but never, in my experience, penance. The priest is not handing out punishment but attempting to help the penitent find their way with encouragement.

I have always heard it said of reconciliation that, all may, some should, none must. This is to say that reconciliation, confession, is not required of us by the church. But there are times in our lives when the General Confession on Sunday or our own private confession to God through Christ does not bring us the peace that we are seeking. It is in those times when sharing our sins with a priest of the church, or someone we trust, where we find that "peace that passes all understanding" and where we find our re-connection to God.

I commend this sacramental rite to your consideration this Lent. Take the time to turn to page 446 and read through the Rite. Spend some time with the prayers and the structure of the Rite, open up to God and see where you might be led. I have availed my self of this Rite on more than one occasion and have found it to be helpful and healing.

I will be happy to discuss this with any of you who might desire the sacrament or would just like to understand it better in the light of our lives as Episcopalians and Anglicans.

May God bless your lives in this Holy Season of Lent.

*Fr. Reid*

Sunday Evening  
Contemplation  
6:30pm

says:

- **CONFESS** means "To admit or state that one has committed a crime"
- **RECONCILE** means "To restore friendly relations between" or "cause to coexist in harmony".

I have been thinking about these two ideas a lot lately... As many of you know, I grew up in a different church where the idea of "confession" was a sacrament that we were **forced** to do each month. It was always a stressful event - as we waited for our turn to go into the confessional box my friends and I would sit in the church pew and dream up lists of sins to report. As we did, the nuns prowled around the church and screamed at us (or hit us) if they caught us whispering. Oftentimes kids would wet their pants or throw up. Penance was meaningless and did NOT inspire any of us to be good and I stopped participating in this sacrament as soon as I could. During my high school years the church dropped the word "confession" in favor of the word "reconciliation" - and instead of going into the confessional box we sat in a pew with the priest. The emphasis, however, was still negative...

When I came to St. Mary's Episcopal Church I expected "reconciliation" to be the same sort of experience and for several years after joining our parish I refused to even consider this action. Boy, was I surprised to hear Fr. Reid describe reconciliation as a positive, loving sacrament. I believed he was trying to play tricks on me. However, events conspired so that I felt compelled to share my shortcomings with him (at the time I would never have called this meeting a "reconciliation" - but looking at it now, I think this is exactly what it was). Imagine my surprise, then when - instead of being told I was bad and evil - Fr. Reid told me that God loved and accepted me! I really expected to be rejected and exclude from our parish family - and was amazed to see that just the opposite happened. This "reconciliation" meeting helped me open the door to the idea that I was lovable - and had worth. WOW. I'm still working on wrapping my head around this...

Goodness knows I am no "brainiac" - nor am I anything close to spiritual...but I will say that reconciliation is a GOOD thing. My life has changed as a result of doing this. For the first time, I am beginning to have "friendly relations" with God.

In my opinion, this world needs more "friendly relations" - and what better time than now - during Lent - to give this a try?

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**Cara Nichols** has been accepted to her #1 choice college - **UT AUSTIN**. Congratulations, Cara!! We are so happy for you! She plans to major in Political Science.

**GO LONGHORNS...**





## Trash & Treasures

Eight St. Mary's parishioners (Fr. Reid, Marie & Alana Morgan, Lola Cureton, Terry Sherman, Brian & Eric Williams and Victor Reed) picked up 26 bags of trash, a dryer cardboard box, one hubcap, remnants of a 55 gallon drum and one complete tire and rim this past Saturday along our western sector of Hwy 190. Our next scheduled trash pick-up is March 17th, along our eastern sector, followed by the statewide Texas Trash-off on April 14th. Please mark your calendars - THANKS!



## ASHES TO GO.....

Fr. Reid spoke about this activity during the sermon he gave on Ash Wednesday. In case you missed it, he spoke of many Episcopalian priests going to public venues (street corners, parking lots, etc.) and offering a blessing and ashes to passersby. Dubbed "Ashes to Go", this program began in 2007 in St. Louis; it has caught on in many cities across America - including Texas. Although it bucks conventional traditions, "Ashes to Go" fits the message outlined in the BCP: "Lent is a time when people who have 'been separated from the body of the faithful' are reconciled and 'restored to the fellowship of the Church.'" Some quotes and resources provided by Luke Blount (Epicenter contributor) are below.



*"We decided we would go out to the people and bring the ashes to them," Tweedie told a local TV station. "While the church would love to have their pews full, we recognize that their lives are full too. We're trying to meet them where they're at and keep up with this busy culture."*

*"The hope expressed by all of these clergy is not only that they made people more mindful of Lent and their mortality, but also that some of the recipients of the ashes will find themselves in a church service soon."*

*For some additional resources, videos, and newcast reports please use the link below:*

<http://www.epicenter.org/all-lent/texas-clergy-take-to-the-streets-on-ash-wednesday/>

## WHAT IS LENT?

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo- Saxon word "lencten" the time of the year when days grow longer. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter (Holy Saturday.) The period of Lent covers 40 days excluding Sundays since every Sunday is a "little Easter." We are reminded of Jesus' forty days spent in the wilderness and the temptation by Satan before Jesus began his ministry.

### Lent is:

- A time to *look* at the things we do that are wrong or that tempt us, asking God's and other people's forgiveness;
- A time for *giving up things* that keep us from loving God and God's people fully;
- A time for *taking on disciplines* that will help us grow closer to God;
- A time to *be more aware* of what it means for God to love us unconditionally;
- A time to *root ourselves* more deeply in the salvation we have in Christ.



([www.Epicenter.org/all-lent/2012](http://www.Epicenter.org/all-lent/2012) Lenten Blog)



Photo Courtesy of Paul Wendele.

## Mary's Thoughts on the Bible Challenge

Last month I took the bait for the "Read the Bible in a Year" challenge - and what an eye-opening experience it has been!

I didn't expect to learn much... honestly, I saw this as a way to rebel against my traditional Catholic upbringing (my "stick it to the man" mentality).

After finishing Genesis I wanted to break out the champagne. The stories were familiar, but boy - I was VERY aware that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the rest of the crew did their part to make sure their descendants were as "plentiful as the stars in the sky"!

Psalms, have been really cool. It seems like the writers back then faced the same challenges we do today - despair, bone-weary tiredness, and fear. (I know Fr. Reid has told us that repeatedly - but it's another thing to read it for myself.) Psalms help me believe in

God and let me see I'm not alone in my struggles.

The New Testament readings are currently on Matthew. In this gospel, Jesus sure cures a lot of people - way more than I thought (Sunday gospel snippets don't give you the sense of just how many) - and he is constantly getting in and out of boats. Also I was surprised to learn there were TWO stories concerning loaves and fishes - and a weird story about paying taxes with a coin from a fish's mouth.

I haven't received much feedback from you...so if you are doing this, please send me your thoughts. It will help me better understand what I'm reading.

If you want to start reading the bible, then climb on board! The website is:  
<http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/read-the-bible-in-a-year/>

Fr. Reid has also emailed the schedule - and it is posted on our St. Mary's website.

## Vestry Conference

Our Vestry members will be spending a day in Austin on March 3.

They will attend any number of workshops. Some topics include:

- Stewardship
- Evangelism
- Communications
- Vestry development
- Spirituality
- Congregational best practices
- Conflict resolution
- Clergy wellness
- Interim ministry
- Rector searches
- Outreach
- Newcomer ministry
- Mission and vision
- Youth ministries
- Multi-cultural ministries
- Christian formation
- Finances
- Investments
- Leadership
- Mission funding
- Church organization and polity
- Technology

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

SHARING FAITH DINNER  
 April 26, 2012

The Episcopal Diocese of TX invites you to a simple meal in a St. Mary's parishioner home. Each of us has our own personal faith story, and sharing our stories deepens our own faith as well as helps others to recognize how God has worked in their lives. On this evening of Sharing Faith, it is our hope that you will experience a deeper understanding of your own faith as a Christian disciple and as an Episcopalian. (This will be occurring the same night all over Texas. Janna Hammett is our coordinator and will get info out soon. **GO JANNA!**)



## Diocesan Council Report

Fr. Reid, Tulisha, Cheryl-Ann, Tom, and I attended the Diocesan Council on February 3-4 in Bryan, TX. This was a "business meeting" in the sense that people got together to give reports, discuss issues, and vote. Between sessions we visited booths providing information (scholarships, Camp Allen, continuing education, diversity, etc.) and some amazing things to buy (vestments, pens, jewelry, artwork). It was really fun! The BIG result was that everyone voted to approve an election for a new Bishop Suffragan. (If I understand correctly, the nominees will visit parishes in the upcoming months. We "interview" them, then return in early June to elect the best candidate.) A new priest (Rev. Lisa Hines) gave a report about how her Bastrop parish suffered from last year's drought and fires. Calvary Episcopal School and over 40 parishioner homes were destroyed by fire. The challenges that Rev. Hines and her parish members faced were overwhelming. However, the amazing thing was that none of them were angry or resentful - instead they expressed their thankfulness for the support that was provided to their parish by our Diocese. For more info on the Diocesan Council, go to <http://www.epicenter.org/council2012/>



## Triple R Recycling really **WORKS!**



Our family keeps trash cans to collect household goods for recycling. Recently we took a load of cardboard and plastic down to Triple R Recycling. (We didn't have enough aluminum to take this time). St. Mary's scored \$.52 from our booty!

To get there, turn right off Key onto Hwy 580 - go past the nursing home. As soon as you go over the RR tracks you'll see Triple R on your right. We almost missed it because it was so clean and organized.

## Funny Email that made us laugh. Remember when:

- Girls wore ugly gym uniforms and tennis shoes (not \$200 Nikes)
- It took 3 minutes for TV to warm up
- Nobody owned a purebred dog
- Your mom wore nylons that came in 2 pieces (heck - forget my mom...I did too!)
- You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free, every time? And you didn't pay for air? And, you got trading stamps to boot?
- Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?
- It was considered a great privilege to go out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents?
- No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked?
- Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying, 'That cloud looks like a... '?
- Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! But we survived because their love was greater than the threat.

(Thanks to CAW for sharing this!)







# Bishop's Family Music Festival

Join us for a weekend in the piney woods as you enjoy live music, outdoor activities, southern food and fellowship with your entire Episcopal Diocese of Texas family!

**May 18-20, 2012**

**Camp Allen**  
Conference and Retreat Center

## *Schedule*

### **Friday**

- 5:00 Registration and activity sign-ups
- 6:30 Dinner
- 7:30 Evening Entertainment
- 9:00 Evening social for adults and stargazing for youth

### **Saturday**

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Open Activity Period: canoeing, swimming, giant swing nature hikes, outdoor education classes, archery & more!
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Open Activity Period continues
- 3:00 Refreshments and outdoor performances
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Performance by the Austin Lounge Lizards
- 9:00 Outdoor Movie with Popcorn

### **Sunday**

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Worship and Eucharist
- 10:00 Open Activity Period
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Departure

## *Packages*

<b>Family</b> (2 Adults & 2 Kids)	<b>\$465</b>
<b>Couple</b>	<b>\$365</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Additional Children</b>	<b>\$65</b>

Rates include two nights hotel lodging, six buffet meals, refreshments, music performances, and listed activities.

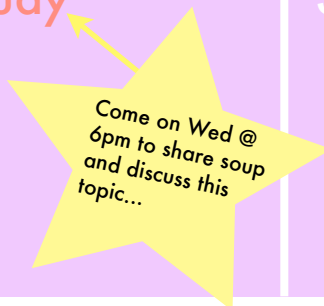
Massages, Horseback riding, pony rides, and skeet shooting are available for a nominal fee.

Children ages two & under are free, and participants over age fourteen will be charged as adults.

To learn more or register,  
call 866.334.CAMP or visit:

*[campallen.org](http://campallen.org)*

	Inward	Outward	Corporate
Research these Spiritual Disciplines for Lent	Meditation Prayer Fasting <b>Study</b>	Simplicity Solitude Submission Service	Confession Worship Guidance Celebration  Richard Foster, <i>The Celebration of Discipline</i>



## When Kids Interrupt

***Kids should not be allowed to interrupt their parents.***

When children are allowed to control whether or not their parents converse, they're at great risk for developing the notion that they have more importance and power in the family than their parents. While we believe that children should be given plenty of love and attention, we know that kids who believe that the world revolves around them...well...grow up to be adults who believe that the world revolves around them.

Part of the solution involves being very careful to avoid interrupting them when it's their turn to speak. In Charles Fay's book, [\*Parenting Kids To Become the People Employers Really Want and America Desperately Needs!\*](#) he discusses the immense power of modeling. Kids who learn these skills via example enjoy far happier lives as adults.

Another piece of the puzzle involves setting and enforcing clear limits. Some parents experiment by calmly yet firmly saying, "I will

listen to you when I am done talking with Dad."

When children continue to interrupt anyway, there must be a consequence delivered with loving empathy. Many possibilities exist. Perhaps the simplest involves doing your best to finish the conversation...then calmly saying, "This is so sad. You interrupted us when we were trying to talk. Now we don't have the energy to do the things you wanted us to do today."

One couple commented on their unique strategy:

*Our kids had gotten so bad about interrupting us that we decided to hire a baby sitter...at their expense. We said to them, "This is such a bummer. You guys haven't been letting us talk. Now we need to go out and get all of our talking done. You'll be staying with Mrs. B. She's going to ask you how you plan to pay her for her time." After we did this one time, our kids were far more careful when we said, "We'll listen when we are done talking."*

(Charles Fay, [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com))



## CURSILLO WEEKENDS

June 14-17, 2012  
August 9-12, 2012  
November 1-4, 2012  
February 14-17, 2013

Tom and Mary are hoping to attend in June. Does anyone else want to go? Tell Fr. Reid if you do - or if you have questions.



It's Lent - so that means.....

## BUTTERY SOFT PRETZELS

### Ingredients

- 4 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- 1 1/4 cups warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 
- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 4 cups hot water
- 1/4 cup kosher salt, for topping



### Directions

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast and 1 teaspoon sugar in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, 1/2 cup sugar, and salt. Make a well in the center; add the oil and yeast mixture. Mix and form into a dough. If the mixture is dry, add one or two tablespoons of water. Knead the dough until smooth, about 7 to 8 minutes. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about 1 hour.
3. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). In a large bowl, dissolve baking soda in hot water.
4. When risen, turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a rope and twist into a pretzel shape. Once all of the dough is all shaped, dip each pretzel into the baking soda solution and place on a greased baking sheet. Sprinkle with kosher salt.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 8 minutes, until browned.

## RELAY FOR LIFE - St. Mary's "Holy Cows!"

**DATE:** Friday March 23 @6pm until Saturday March 24 @ 6am (you do NOT have to stay the entire time)

**PLACE:** Lampasas Middle School Track      **GOAL:** St. Mary's hopes to raise \$2,500 for the American Cancer Society

**FUNDRAISING:** We have home-made aprons, turbans (to keep heads warm), window displays, rubber bracelets, and Relay Lap markers (suncatchers). We are selling luminarias (\$5 each), have a NASA basket (a HUGE "Shout-Out" to Maureen Adams!! *You ROCK*). *St. Mary's is also hosting a PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS on March 31 from 2-4pm - see Libby Bluntzer*

Please support our efforts.....contact one of the team members listed below - or go online and donate to our team at [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org). Click on the DONATE tab at the top of the page and choose "Donate" if you want to give to our team or "Luminaria" if you want to donate in memory of a loved one (or celebrate a survivor).

**TEAM:** Bill & Sharon Archie, Victor Reed, Brian Williams, Tom Hart, John & Mimi Cole, Bonilee Garrett, Sherry McBryde, Becca Fedder, Cheryl Ann Wendele, Tulisha Carson, Julie & Josh Farnsworth, Mary Halvorson & Mary Raring-Hart (Co-Captain)



*Forget Mardi Gras in New Orleans...*

*St. Mary's Shrove Tuesday was the*

*PLACE TO BE!*

