

Publisher's Note:

What follows is an invitation from Jason Kinchen for the Parish of the Epiphany to participate in the Tri-State Trek, a 300 mile bicycle challenge to support ALS research. I commend this to all of us, and look forward to our coming together for ALS, as Jason says, to the glory of God.



Tri-State Trek for ALS

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis(ALS) – otherwise known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, Charcot’s Disease, and motor neuron disease (MND) – is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder whose cure has yet to be found. It’s a particularly cruel condition as it targets only cells required for motion, but leaves cognitive and sensing cells completely intact. So, the sufferer is completely aware of the progression of the illness.

That’s the clinical description. My personal version is that I find myself with a disturbingly accelerated experience with this disease. In the past decade, I have known, or dear friends have known, people who have been diagnosed with ALS. For quite a while now, my intercessory prayers have consistently included someone who suffers from or has recently passed away from ALS. My heart is periodically stricken by this news and I feel the Spirit entering into the breaks.

As compared to some chronic and deadly diseases, ALS has remains stubbornly resistant to a breakthrough. Indeed, no effective treatment or cure yet exists. Because of its reputation for slow progress, it remains underfunded. This situation is a shame because truly remarkable research is being done, and changing that reality is the passion and focus for many in the clinical community.

As many of you know because you have generously supported me, I am a regular participant in the Pan Mass Challenge - a cycling event to support another great cause, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. But this year, I’m switching up. At the end of June is the Tri-State Trek whose beneficiary is the ALS Therapy Development Institute:

<http://www.als.net/>

As opposed to the Pan Mass event, which is two days and 200 miles, the Tri-State Trek is three days, 300 miles. An appropriate difference, given the distance ALS research has to go. I’d like to invite you all to join me and form Team Epiphany! The team would rally to fundraise, support, and participate in this 3-day event in June. I can think of several ways to engage:

1. Get out your trusty two-wheeler and start training! It would be great to have team of Epiphany cyclists training and riding together!
2. Volunteer at the Tri-State Trek. These events can’t happen without an army of volunteers to support the riders at water-stops, in support vehicles, and at the overnight venues.

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3. Cheer on the cyclists! The course starts at Boston College and ends on the Green in Greenwich Connecticut with overnight layovers at UConn in Storrs and the University of New Haven – with many water stops in between. How cool would it be to have folks at various places shouting their encouragement?
4. Pledge your support financially. Each cyclist will be on the hook to raise \$2000, so all such help will be key.

I completed this ride in 2015 and it was a tremendous experience. Info for the Tri-State Trek is here:

<http://tst.als.net/>

If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with me at jason.kinchen@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading this far. I hope our community can rally to support the ALS-TDI in a significant and loving way. Our parish has been, and continues to be, deeply affected by this horrible disease. Let's take a stand and make a push against it – to the glory of God.

Jason Kinchen