



Our Mission Statement:

To spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action.

February 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

The Winged Lion



1602 Thousand Oaks Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78232

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Super Youth Spectacular

On Feb 13th, 2010 at the El Tropicano Hotel from 8:30 am til 6:30 pm, the Super Youth Spectacular for the high school youth of San Antonio will take place. This year the theme will be "Transform Us: Rise of the Fallen." We will have sessions on the transformative power of the sacraments!

The day will be full of active learning, highlighted by Bishop Cantu's thoughts on the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Each of the Sacraments will be presented by a different youth group and will be full of fun

activities and plenty of time to unpack our learning. We will finish the day with Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. The house band and emcee for the day will be Popple. We'll have a great time!

Would you like to help at SYS? Contact Shane Hamilton at 434-1959.



Organ Blessing

November 21, 2009, was a day to remember. The blessing of the Buzard Pipe Organ happened at St. Mark with Archbishop José H. Gomez celebrating the Mass. After a beautiful reception, the Inaugural Concert took place and was the perfect end of a whirlwind day. Dr. David Heller, an internationally known concert organist and Professor of Organ at Trinity University was the guest artist. His selections showed the versatility of the organ. (continued on page 10)



From left to right:
Courtney Guernsey, Music Director Asst.
Dr. David Heller, Trinity U. Music Professor
Dolores Martinez, St. Mark Music Director
John-Paul Buzard, Organ Designer & Builder

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- St. Mark CYO 2010 baseball registration ends on February 10th. Page 2
- The 2010 Free Throw Championship kicks off on February 9th. Page 5
- Your two page Lenten Calendar is ready to post on your fridge. Pages 6-7
- Scholarship applications and instructions are ready for Seniors. Page 9

Archbishop's Appeal for 2010

The 2010 Archbishop's Appeal pledge weekend will take place on February 6th & 7th at St. Mark the Evangelist. The campaign goal is \$3,500,000, and our parish goal is almost \$150,000. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Archdiocese each year. Education of our children and seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Each of us is challenged to accept the opportunity to support the work of God by making a gift to this year's Archbishop's Appeal. Participation is more important than the amount you give. If every family takes part in the Appeal, we will be successful and make our goal.

Habits begin as offhanded remarks, ideas and images. And then, layer upon layer, through practice, they grow from cobwebs into cables that shackle or strengthen our lives.

Dates Locked-in for Vacation Bible School



Join us this Summer for VBS. The dates for Vacation Bible School are July 12 - 16. Registration begins on May 1st for registered parish families at St. Mark the Evangelist.

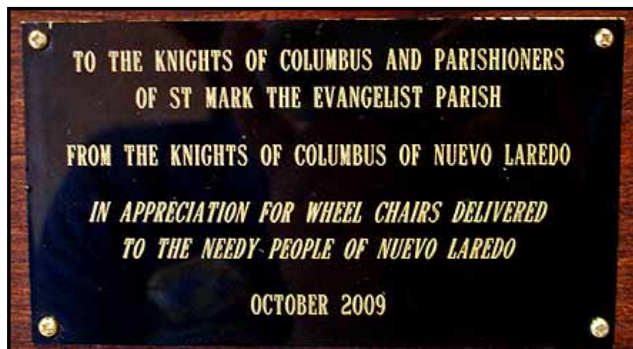
On June 1st, registration will be opened to non-registered families.

Watch the newsletters and bulletins for more information.

New Plaque in Church



The Knights of Columbus in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, gave St. Mark the Evangelist a special memento for all of the wheel chairs delivered to their city. Look for it at church. See "International Honors" on page 3.



St. Mark CYO 2010 Baseball Registration



Registration for Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball will be held on Sunday 1/31/2010 from 11am-12pm in the Narthex of the old church. Final day of registration will be Wednesday, 2/10/2010 from 6:30-8:30pm in the gym.

The registration fee is \$65 for the first child, \$60 for the second child and \$55 for three or more children. The uniform fee will be an extra charge. In addition, a one time per child per school year Archdiocese registration fee of \$12 is required. This fee is used to fund the archdiocese CYO sports accident supplementary financial help program.

For your convenience, we recommend everyone utilize the online registration process. Please visit www.stmarkevangelist.com, click on CYO and select online registration.



For questions about registration contact:
CYO President-Paul Cardone at 210.490.5913
CYO Baseball Commissioner-Wayne Terry at 210.490.8643

CYO Registrar-Michael Whitehurst at 210.403.0234
CYO Athletic Director - Chris Schultz at 210.379.2333

Contact Us

You can submit an article for publication in *The Winged Lion* by bringing it to the Pastoral Office in person or by mailing the article to Don Williams. The best way is to submit your articles for the Parish Newsletter via email to:



We want to read fresh ideas for your newsletter.

dwilliams@stmarkevangelist.com

The Winged Lion is published monthly except for combo issues in December/January and June/July. There is an additional special newsletter published in the month of December.

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1602 Thousand Oaks Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78232

210-494-1606
(Fax) 210-494-4957

People do not lack strength; they lack will.

St. Mark Youth Provides

Matthew Trompler is working on his Eagle Scout, and came to the Youth Office several weeks ago asking how he can help.

The fruit of that discussion has come to life in the shape of seven banner holders. The holders will be used for future "4 Corners", World Youth Day, and a number of other events. Thanks again, Matthew



Msgr. Kevin and Matthew

International Honors to St. Mark

The Knights of Columbus at St. Mark, Council 7613, has received a very special award. Sam Szalwinski, Diocesan Deputy and Texas Knights of Columbus Wheel Chair Coordinator, presented the award at the Knight's Christmas party.

From left to right:
Steven Cennamo, Grand Knight;
Luis Luis Past Grand Knight;
Sam Szalwinski, Diocesan Deputy;
Don Williams, Past Grand Knight.



He stated that this award belongs to Msgr. Kevin and the parishioners of St. Mark as much as the Knights. This most prestigious award is for Second Place in the 2008-2009 International Service Program Award for Community Activity. It recognizes St. Mark on its wheel chair drive held in 2008. This world-wide honor should make every parishioner at St. Mark proud.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners, Council 7613 and St. Mark received this award from the Knights of Columbus headquarters.



Thank You from the Youth Office

The Youth Office would like to thank all who gave of their time and energy to help with our Light the Way and Christmas Cards for Soldiers projects.

Nearly 30 people, both youth and adult, came out Nov 14th to help wrap the trees around the campus with festive white lights. As the lights glimmered in the cooling fall

evenings, they truly began to illustrate the warmth and hospitality of the St Mark community.

We also had the same overwhelming response of people helping to write over 200 Christmas Cards to our soldiers, both here and abroad. We wished them a very Merry Christmas and a Texas sized thank you for protecting our

Visit our Website.
www.stmarkevangelist.com

What is missing from our website? What would you like to add? Is your ministry represented? Is your event listed in the calendar? Do you have some parish news that you would like to share? These and other questions can be answered by calling the Development Office and asking for Don Williams. We want to make your website user friendly, but we need your help. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

KUDOS KORNER
Special recognition goes out to the Art and Environment Ministry for the Christmas beautification at St. Mark. We also wish to thank Nadler's Bakery for providing, at the last minute, a beautiful cake to the youth for a LifeNight event at St. Mark.

Determine what specific goal you want to achieve. Then dedicate yourself to its attainment with unswerving singleness of purpose, the trenchant zeal of a crusader.

Resolutions and Goals

With the new year, many of us have made resolutions and goals for our life. The major reason for setting a goal is what it makes of you when you accomplish it. What it makes of you will always be of far-greater value than what you get. There's no telling what you can do when you get inspired by your goals. There's no telling what you can do when you believe in them. And there's no telling what will happen when you act upon them.

When Andrew Carnegie died, they discovered a sheet of paper upon which he had written one of the major goals of his life: to spend the first half of his life accumulating money and to spend the last half of his life giving it all away. And he did! We all need lots of powerful long-range goals to help us past the short-term obstacles.

Don't set your goals too low. If you don't need much, you won't become much. If you go to work on your goals, your goals will go to work on you. If you go to work on your plan, your plan will go to work on you. Whatever good things we build end up building us. We all have two choices: We can go through life or we can design a life.

A GOAL is a DREAM with a DEADLINE.

Women's Guild Activities

The Women's Guild would like to extend belated best wishes and prayers for a Happy New Year to all parishioners. We also want to take a moment and say a very, very, very gigantic thank you to all the



parishioners that have supported the Women's Guild during the past year. You have been very generous in supporting our bake sales, our new Trash and Treasure "shop", our Heavenly Angel Cafe, and soon to come, Spring Fashion show. Thanks to your

generosity and support, the Guild has been able to help many charities this year.

We were able to donate \$1,500 dollars to the altar servers for new robes. We sent \$400 dollar checks out to St. Vincent de Paul, Respite Care, Visitation House Ministries, Allied Women's Center, the Sisters of Holy Spirit Orphanage in Zambia, Seton Home, and Battered Women's Shelter, to name a few. At the Spring Fashion show, \$5,000 dollars in scholarships will be given to graduating seniors at St. Mark's. Just think, it all started with a baked chocolate chip cookie at a bake sale!!!!

Look for more information on the "Garden Party Luncheon & Fashion Show" in the Bulletin.

This year the Guild started a "Lunch Bunch" that selects a restaurant each month, and the ladies meet to socialize and get to know our members better. Jan Williams and I have not been very successful in getting them to deliver

lunch at our places of employment!! Anyway, the ladies have an awesome time and the "bunch" keeps growing. The next lunch will be at Pappadeaux on February 3.

We also made our first shopping and lunch outing to Gruene this fall. We had a fabulous time and hope that more ladies can join our next outing that is in the planning stages. It's not too late to get in on all the fun that we have at our meetings and most of all, enjoy the companionship of the most wonderful and talented ladies you will ever meet. Call Jan at 274-6275 and sign up now.



Our next bake sale is Feb. 6th and 7th. Whip out those baking sheets and come join us. Don't forget to start looking for those "priceless" donation items for our "Trash and Treasure" shop.

JAN WILLIAMS WILL BE SELLING THE SPRING LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW TICKETS AT OUR BAKE SALE ON FEBRUARY 6 & 7. TICKET SALES TIMES WILL BE IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN. CALL JAN WILLIAMS AT 274-6275 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Once again, thank you to all the parishioners of St. Mark, and as always, big hugs and many thanks to my great board of officers and Guild members that help carry out the responsibilities of the Women's Guild.

God bless,
Carolyn Warden
President



Some of the members and their spouses at the Christmas Party.

**The problem is not that there are problems.
The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking
that having problems is a problem.**

Faustina's Diary - the story continues

With each printing of the Winged Lion, the ministry of Divine Mercy will familiarize you with the journey of Maria Faustina's religious life.

Not only will the people who say the Chaplet receive these graces, but also the dying at whose side others will recite this prayer. The Lord said: "When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul" (Diary, 811). The general promise says: "It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by

saying the chaplet" (Diary 1541) "...if what you ask for is compatible with My will" (Diary, 1731). For, anything that is not compatible with God's will is not good for people, especially for their eternal happiness.

On a different occasion, Jesus said: "by saying the Chaplet, you are bringing humankind closer to Me" (Diary, 929), and again: "The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death" (Diary, 754).

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For further information about St. Faustina, her diary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, you may contact

Ken Macinga 490-8424 or

Jeri Minyon at 599-8928.

K of C Youth Free Throw Championship

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the 2010 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The competition will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St Mark's gym. Registration and warm-up shooting is at 6:30 p.m.

The K of C Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district and state competitions. All boys and girls will participate in their respective age divisions (age as of January 1, 2010). All contestants on the local level will be recognized for their participation in the event. Participants may be required to provide proof of age and written parental consent. For additional information, please contact Chris Huggins at 491-9568. Entry forms will be available as you enter the gym at St Mark's. **There is no fee to participate.**

CYO basketball coaches are encouraged to bring your entire team. Have your players show up in their uniforms and challenge each other for the highest score. This is a fun event that will promote team building and sportsmanship.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN, STEP UP TO THE LINE AND GIVE IT A SHOT!



St. Valentine's Day Dance February 13

Mark Saturday, February 13, 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, as a night of fun. The Knights of Columbus are once again hosting the annual St. Valentine's Day Dance in the Community Center.

The event is for all parishioners and guests.

Tickets are still \$5 each. The Knights are keeping the prices down again. For that, you have DJ Music, Sodas/Setups, Prizes, and Free Childcare by reservation. (You need to BYOB/ Snacks).

Tickets will be on sale at the door the night of the event.

TO HAVE FREE CHILD CARE FOR THE EVENING, (RESERVATIONS ONLY, ages 2-11) PLEASE CALL DONNA SCALIA AT 494-1606 EXT. 325 BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

Come on out and have a good time with your fellow parishioners.





S. t. Mark the E vangelist

Lent, T riduum and E aster Calendar 2010

SERVICE	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
ASH WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 17 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:30 PM, 7:30 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
WEEKDAY MASSES	MONDAYS—8:15 AM & 6:30 PM TUESDAYS—6:30 AM WEDNESDAYS—6:30 & 8:15 AM THURSDAYS—6:30 & 8:15 AM FRIDAYS—8:15 AM	DAY CHAPEL
LENTEN REFLECTIONS <i>"Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Passion of Luke"</i> with Fr. Pat O'Shea, MSC	<u>MONDAYS</u> FEBRUARY 22 – 7:15 PM MARCH 1, 8, 15 – 7:15 PM	DAY CHAPEL
LITURGY OF THE HOURS (EVENING PRAYER)	<u>WEDNESDAYS</u> FEB 24 – 7:00 PM MARCH 3, 10, 17 – 7:00 PM	DAY CHAPEL
WAY OF THE CROSS (STATIONS)	<u>FRIDAYS</u> FEBRUARY 19, 26 – 7:00 PM MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26 – 7:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK	<u>SATURDAY</u> MARCH 13 – 10:30 AM	MAIN SANCTUARY
PARISH MISSION (MARCH 20-24) <i>"Awaken Our Hearts"</i>	<u>SAT (MAR 20) – WED (MAR 24)</u> SATURDAY <i>Parish Ministries/Volunteers' Appreciation Day</i> SUNDAY EVENING <i>Music Concert</i> MONDAY EVENING - <i>Mission</i> TUESDAY EVENING <i>Mission and Reconciliation</i> WEDNESDAY EVENING <i>Mission and Closing Mass</i>	MAIN SANCTUARY
PARISH RECONCILIATION	SAT (MAR 27) 9:00 AM	MAIN SANCTUARY



S t. Mark the E vangelist

Lent, T riduum and E aster Calendar 2010

SERVICE	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
PALM SUNDAY	March 27th/28th (Sat) 5:00 PM (Sun) 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	APRIL 1 - HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION	APRIL 2 - GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
EASTER VIGIL	APRIL 3 - HOLY SATURDAY 8:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY <i>(No Sacrament of Reconciliation or 5:00 PM Mass today)</i>
EASTER	APRIL 4 – EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 NOON, 5:00 PM	MAIN SANCTUARY
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA	APRIL 2 (GOOD FRIDAY) 2:15 & 6:15 PM	ADORATION CHAPEL
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA	APRIL 3 (HOLY SATURDAY) 7:15 PM	ADORATION CHAPEL
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA	APRIL 4 (EASTER SUNDAY) FOLLOWING 12:00 MASS	MAIN SANCTUARY
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA	7:00 PM APRIL 5 (MONDAY) APRIL 6 (TUESDAY) APRIL 7 (WEDNESDAY) APRIL 8 (THURSDAY) APRIL 9 (FRIDAY) *APRIL 10 (SATURDAY)	MONDAY - FRIDAY DAY CHAPEL *AFTER 5:00 PM MASS MAIN SANCTUARY
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	APRIL 11 (SUNDAY)	AFTER ALL MASSES MAIN SANCTUARY

While you are in school, make sure you get the information. What you think about it, that's up to you. What you are going to do with it, that will soon be up to you. But while you are there, make sure you get it. In fact, my advice is - Don't leave school without it!

An Open Letter to the Parishioners of St. Mark

Awaken Our Hearts

Parish Mission
MARCH 20-24, 2010

Re: "Awaken Our Hearts" Parish Mission and Ministry Appreciation Day

My Dear Parishioner,

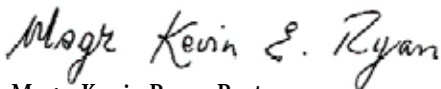
I am writing to inform you of a very important Ministry Appreciation Day scheduled at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church on March 20, 2010. I am also requesting that you make every effort to attend.

Our parish is blessed with many ministries and service organizations, all of them staffed entirely by volunteers. Those of you who minister have been given gifts from God and want to express your gratitude by helping others. Sometimes we may get tired, begin to burn out, or lose our motivation and need a spiritual lift from time to time. I believe this day can give us that.

The focus of the Day is our parish family growing in prayer and faith. The aim is to foster spiritual renewal and growth for those who serve in our parish. Every person involved in ministry, at any level, should attend. Please take a few moments now to mark this event on your calendar and make plans to join us on Saturday, March 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the church. In appreciation for all that you give in love, a luncheon will be provided by the parish. Closing Prayer and Dismissal at 3:00 pm. An RSVP is requested. Please complete and return the response below, or call the Parish Office at 210-494-1606.

ParishMission.Org will also be presenting a concert entitled "Awaken Our Hearts: Parish Family Concert" on Sunday, March 21 at 7:00 pm. A three-day Parish Mission including scripture woven with story and song will follow Monday-Wednesday March 22-24 each evening in the church. All are invited to attend.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Msgr. Kevin Ryan, Pastor

(Please cut here and return bottom portion to the Parish Office or place in Offertory Basket)

"We will attend the Ministry Appreciation Day on Saturday, March 20."

Please indicate name, phone number and e-mail address (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Enthusiastic people experience life

Scholarships for Youth

FULL APPLICATION FORM IS ON THE ST. MARK WEBSITE

The Knights of Columbus and the Women's Guild are giving \$1000 scholarships. To be eligible to apply for a \$1000 scholarship, you must be:

- a high school senior
- registered at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish
- planning to attend a college or vocational school in 2010-2011
- involved in St. Mark the Evangelist church-related activities



Council 7613

Women's Guild

Instructions:

1. Each applicant must complete and submit his or her **own application form** to the Pastoral Office no later than **12 Noon, Thursday, February 25, 2010**.

Include the following:

- a. A 250 word (or less) **computer printed essay** addressing **one** of the following topics:
"Explain why you believe that the Roman Catholic religion has value in today's world"
OR
"Explain how your Catholic faith should influence your political opinions"
- b. A current, **unofficial** copy of your high school transcript.
- c. A non-returnable digital photograph inserted onto the application, or a copy of a standard photograph.

Please be sure that your envelope is addressed to the Scholarship Committee.

2. Interviews will be scheduled in the Parish Library (next to the Pastoral Office) on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 and Wednesday, March 3, 2010, between 5:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE SO YOU CAN ATTEND!

The deadline for scholarship application is 12 Noon on Thursday, February 25, 2010
Late applications will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Nancy Forget, Women's Guild Chairperson, at 496-1420, i4get@satx.rr.com or Richard Newcomb, Knights of Columbus Chairperson at 496-5370. RNewcomb@satx.rr.com

2009 World Youth Day

On November 7th, the Northeast Deanery held the yearly World Youth Day event at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. With over 100 in attendance, the youth began the day with some icebreakers led by St Mark's own Sam Vogel, Nicole Allen and Frank Renaud. There were high school and middle school tracts for talks and small group breakout sessions to unpack the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

We celebrated Mass with Bishop Cantu and followed up the evening with a dance and pizza party. St Mark youth were over 40 strong in attendance with a near even split between high school and



middle school. Thanks to Debbie Gray at Holy Trinity for her hospitality. Next year's World Youth Day event will be at our very own St Mark the Evangelist.



**I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart,
I usually make the right decision.**

Organ Blessing Pictures



From the food preparation to the Mass to the reception and then to the concert, the day was filled with a feeling of anxiety and accomplishment.

The Knights of Columbus, Assembly 3018, was there to add to the festivities.

The Choir under the direction of Dolores Martinez sang both at the Mass and at the concert.

Casey Magnuson and her crew prepared food for a thousand people.



Census Positions Available

The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for motivated individuals to work for local offices in San Antonio for the 2010 Census. Full-time and part-time positions are available with pay ranging from \$10.50 to \$17 per hour. Relocation is not required; new hires will work where they live.

Local Census employees will work to ensure that the 2010 Census takes a clear snapshot of our nation for use in allocating over \$400 billion annually of federal funds to state and local governments, apportionment in the House of Representatives, and redistricting data. Census employees will carry out assigned census duties from

Local Census Offices to ensure that census operations are conducted on time, according to quality standards and within budget.

Census Day is April 1, 2010, and the Census Bureau's Dallas Region has commenced operations to ensure that every person is counted in the 2010 Census. A total of 39 Local Census Offices are already operating all over Texas. These offices will need to recruit and employ approximately 84,000 workers during peak 2010 Census operations. We strongly encourage residents from all over the area to apply.

For more information on qualifications or how to apply, call the U.S. Census Bureau's job line at 1 (866) 861-2010 or visit www.2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs.

**When we have done our best,
we should wait the result in peace.**

Information Please!

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE.

Get you tickets at the door on February 13 in the Community Center. It is only \$5 per person. See article on page 5.

SUPERBOWL K of C CHICKEN BBQ & WOMEN'S GUILD BAKE SALE

Enjoy chicken & sausage and fresh baked goods on February 6-7. The Guild will also have their **Trash and Treasure** table ready in the Community Center. Sales from the BBQ go to scholarships for St. Mark youth.

LENTEN BIBLE LISTENING AUDIO

The Archdiocese of San Antonio will be offering a new program to listen to the Bible during Lent. Kickoff is on Ash Wednesday. Keep reading the Bulletin for more information.

RETRouvaille CAN HELP

Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. For confidential information about, or to register for, the February program beginning with a weekend on Feb 26-

28 call 210-632-6369 or 210-495-7042 or visit www.retrouvaille.org

VASE TRAINING COMING

For your information, VASE Training (Archdiocesan Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment) is being offered here at St. Mark the Evangelist on February 11 and April 8 at 7 pm in New Legacy. According to Steve Martinez at the VASE office (734-7786), everyone who works with children must complete a Criminal Background Check every 3 years as well as go through the VASE Training.

High School Spring Retreat—March 12th, 13th & 14th

The high school spring retreat is going to be amazing this year. The retreat team is being formed now in preparation for YOUR arrival. Tons of talks, loads of laughter, mountains of music, pillars of prayer and fountains of fun will be coming. HEB Camp will serve as our backdrop, and this location is always a treat to our senses. Our scripture for the retreat covers the parable from Luke about the prodigal son and is sure to touch each of our lives in a different way. Permission slips coming soon from the Youth Office.



Youth Bring the Holiday Spirit to Regent Care

It was a chilly December evening as nearly 40 youth from SMYG (high school) and B2L (middle school) caravanned toward the north star over the Regent Care Center on Blanco. With some creative help by



Anne Kemper, the youth came bearing gifts of fruit-including apples decorated to look like Santa Claus. The youth went up and down the hallways delivering their goodies. With a simple "Merry Christmas", a number of conversations blossomed into a great heartfelt experience for the youth and the elderly.

We gathered back at the entrance to hand out our



songbooks; and with them clutched tightly in hand, began our journey. Sam Vogel led us

through the hallways as we softly filled the corridors with the holiday spirit. From *Jingle Bells* and *Deck the Halls* to *Away in a Manger* and *O Holy Night*, the youth passed door after door peeking to see who might be listening. A number of residents were clapping along from the confinements of their bed, while others wheeled out to the doorway and joined in the vocal melodies. While some smiled and returned our Merry Christmas blessings, others rested gently asleep.

Our youth seemed moved by the vulnerability of the elderly. We reminded them this is what compassion is all about. We returned to New Legacy for some pizza and fun for the remainder of the evening. May God bless the residents of Regent Care Center with a very peaceful and Merry Christmas.



“GIVING TREE” A SUCCESS

Santa and his elves were kept very busy at St. Mark's this year! He not only made his annual trip down 281 to St. Patrick's and then over to St. Agnes, but once again was able to visit the Presentation Ministry Center. He didn't get much rest in between trips though. His "sleigh" and his elves loaded up once again and were off to Our Lady of Angels and Mission Espada to bring joy and goodies to those parishes as well.



Through the extreme generosity of each of you (the parishioners of St. Mark and members of the HEB Pharmacy Operations Department that participated again this year), we were once again able to assure that many children had a good Christmas. Despite the even tougher economic times than we had last year, the presents poured in and deliveries were made on December 13th & 20th. This was the first year that we included "Seniors" on the Giving Tree. Not only did you make sure that the children were helped, but also the response for the seniors of our sister parishes was exceptional. Through your gifts, many seniors are going to be able to stay warm — not only with cozy blankets, sweaters, socks and other special presents but also through City Public Service gift certificates. Imagine how excited they were to be able to have money to pay their utility bill!

This year we expanded our deliveries to include Our Lady of Angels and Mission Espada. Both of these parishes told us that they had to turn families away before our phone call because they did not have anything to give them. Mission Espada said that they had held a small luncheon for the seniors, but were unable to give them any gifts. Small brown bags had been decorated for the children and included Kleenex and a small toy. What a difference you were able to make in the lives of those in need! St. Patrick, St. Agnes, Our Lady of Angels, Mission Espada and the Presentation Ministry Center have each expressed their sincerest appreciation and gratitude to you for your generosity and support of their parishioners.



A special thanks goes out to Town & Country Mortgage Services for printing the ornaments, the Daughters of Mary, the students of the "Edge", and Troy Hassmann & Josh Fritz for helping put the ornaments together. Thank you to the Physical Plant of St. Mark and all the "elves" that helped store and deliver the presents. A special thank you to Mike Stiles for subbing for "Santa" once again this year.

You hear the phrase, "Keep Christ in Christmas" and you see it on car magnets, but how many people live it??? You have done that this Christmas season. We hope your Christmas was blessed and wish you a healthy & prosperous new year.

Rosemary Bailey, St. Vincent de Paul

Ralph Sirois, Knights of Columbus

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

In the Mass, the priest – during the Consecration - speaks these words as he holds the communion bread: "...He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you." The bread and wine which we offer as sacrifice to our Lord truly become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true Presence in the form of bread and wine. It is Christ.

We can schedule ourselves for one or more hours per week to pray before Christ's Presence in the Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel. We take some time alone with our Lord to pray, read Scripture, or other devotional materials. Or perhaps best, we can simply sit, and listen to our Lord, just as we would with a dear friend.

Here is what Pope John Paul II said about Eucharistic Adoration:

I encourage Christians regularly to visit Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, for we are all called to abide in the presence of God. In contemplation, Christians will perceive ever more profoundly the mystery at the heart of Christian life. I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of His presence? Like the young Samuel, by learning the words of the prayer of the heart, they will be closer to the Lord, who will accompany them in their spiritual and human growth.

The Knights of Columbus will be host a "24 Hour Adoration" on February 19 to the 20 for our parish. During the last several Adorations, **attendance was poor**. The Knights provide professional overnight security at a cost of \$250 per night for the safety of our community.



When we look upon the Sacred Host, we look upon Jesus, Son of God. Each hour we spend with Jesus will deepen His Peace in our hearts. When the Adoration sign-up sheets arrive, please consider spending an hour with our Lord. The next 24 Hour Adoration is scheduled for the beginning of Lent – what a great way to begin our preparation for Easter.

Remember the dates: February 19th & 20th.