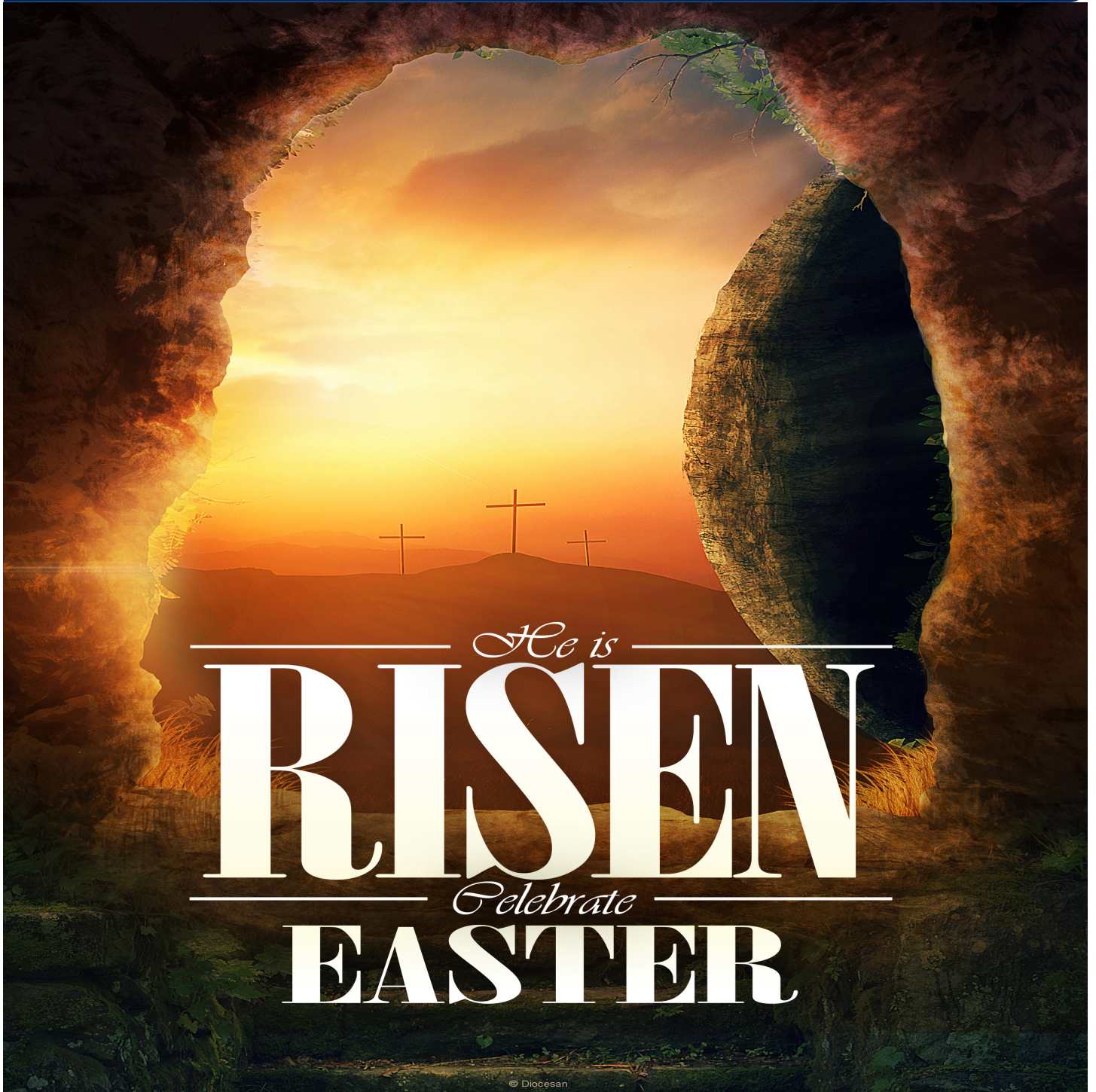


The
WINGED LION

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

APRIL 2023



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A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga



*“We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!”
Anonymous*

After having avoided uttering it throughout Lent, the Octave of Easter is filled with Alleluias in the Gospel Acclamation and in the Dismissal Rite. Balthasar Fischer wrote the following reflection upon this unique word. “It is an unusual word that is not native to the English or even the Latin liturgical vocabulary: the word ‘Alleluia.’ As a matter of fact, it sounds less like a meaningful word than the babbling of a child. . . . ‘Alleluia’ does, of course, have a meaning. It is a Hebrew word, and down the centuries the church has brought it with her, untranslated (like ‘Amen’), as a product of the Jewish soil from which she herself sprang and as a reminder of her earliest days. The word is a cry of jubilation meaning ‘Praise the Lord,’ and occurs frequently in the psalms. . . .

But the translation does not explain why the church chose and retained this word from the Hebrew language of prayer in order to express her Easter jubilation. . . . I think the church meant to say: in the presence of the mystery that we celebrate on Easter, the mystery of our redemption, our usual intelligible vocabulary is inadequate; when faced with the superabundant mercy of God we can only stammer in amazement like children.”

This is how it is with us Christians: As we gaze at the Sun that has risen high over the darkness and cold of our Good Friday, all well-chosen words are useless. We can only stammer out our Alleluia of wonder and jubilation.” If we let the meaning of Easter seep into our soul – Christ’s victory over sin and death and the bright promise we have of experiencing life eternal – our Alleluia’s truly do praise God for the marvelous wonders of salvation and redemption that Easter promises. May we, an Easter People, let our Alleluias resound so as to infiltrate our souls with hope, peace and joy today.

Father Dennis

Triduum & Easter

*Holy Thursday Mass of the Lords Supper
April 6 | 6:00 pm | Main Sanctuary*

*Good Friday | April 7
Living Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm
The Lords Passion, Veneration of the Cross
and Communion Service 6:00 pm*

Easter Vigil Mass | April 8 | 8:30 pm

Easter Sunday | April 9 | Regular Mass Schedule

*Main Sanctuary (10:00 am Livestreamed on
YouTube and Facebook)*

How Much Is Enough?

By Tracy Earl Welliver

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those

who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's

enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Gifts of Publicly Traded Securities

By Mary Anne Votion

Giving publicly traded shares of stock, bonds, or mutual funds to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church (SMECC) allows you to turn an appreciated asset into support for a purpose you choose such as faith formation, general operating expenses, or a particular program.

You'll receive a charitable income tax deduction for your gift, and as a qualified non-profit, SMECC can then sell the stock without having to pay capital gains tax. All proceeds

from the sale will be used for the purposes you specify.

The real cost of your gift is reduced, since you'll save on income and capital gains taxes by giving appreciated stock or mutual fund shares to SMECC.

You can use your securities to make different types of gifts, including:

An outright gift that gives you a charitable deduction for the value of the security while avoiding capital gains taxes.

A gift that gives you income back

and an immediate tax deduction, while leaving the assets to SMECC like a life insurance property or variable annuity.

To create a stock transfer from your brokerage account to SMECC, please call Mac McCarthy at (210) 494-1606; he will walk you through the process.

Mary Anne Votion is the Development Director at St. Mark the Evangelist.



The 2023 St. Mark Habitat House build will begin Saturday, April 22. Join the crews to share your talents, or develop new ones. Secure your work dates in the St. Mark Habitat SignUp Genius site: use this QR code:



Or this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49a8ab29a5f94-stmark3#/>

Information is on the link page or call Nancy Forget 210-410-8589.

St. Mark Catholic Preschool
Now Enrolling

18 months- 4 years old as of September 1st.

(210) 494-9282

SMCP is the perfect fit!



The Work of St. Vincent de Paul

By Maria Rodriguez

For a long time you have been very generous with the ministry of Saint Vincent de Paul and we thank you with all our heart. You can be sure that everything you put in our hands is given with much love to our brothers in need.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you what we do in this ministry. We not only provide food and financial help to those in need, we also help them spiritually.

The ministry of SVDP starts the day in prayer, looking for and recognizing the presence of God in all of us and in the brothers we will serve. We become tools to help them and support them through their financial and spiritual difficulties so they can get ahead.

When we first face our clients we are there to listen and respect them. With charity and empathy we identify their needs and the burdens they carry. We understand the shame

they feel when they come to us for help, because it is easier to give than to ask for help. We ask God to be present, to see the real need and the pain they are under. Spiritually, we are instruments to bring them closer to God by sharing His teachings so they know they are never alone, that He is there in the good times and the difficult ones. We invite them to pray and to be grateful for what they have received, and encourage them to remain united to God in their homes and their daily life.

As you can see, we are servants to the needy, God's instruments to bless them, and the St. Mark the Evangelist community is part of that blessing.

God commands us to *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* We are called to serve and called to see Jesus' presence in others regardless of social status because we are brother's and sisters in Christ and in turn others will see Jesus' presence in us. We ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with pa-

tiency, empathy, wisdom and the will power to do what God wants.

Saint Vincent de Paul provides food and financial assistance with electricity, water bills and rent. We also help in other very special situations. We give information about other resources provided by various charitable associations for legal services as well as places to stay. We monitor them monthly until they are able to make it alone.

We thank God and you the community of St. Mark who are the instrument that allows us to do what we do. Without your help we are not able to lend a helping hand to those that need the most.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families. We are eternally grateful for your generosity. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Maria Rodriguez is the President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Knights of Columbus Flag Ceremony



The Knights of Columbus Council 7613 held a flag ceremony on March 15, 2023, raising a new flag on our flagpole. Dcn. Steve Marquis offered a blessing to kick off the ceremony. The Knights raised the new flag at approximately 10:00 AM.

The raising was then followed by a prayer and blessing from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga, salutes, and patriotic music. Thank you to the Knights for replacing our flag.

Sponsored
by the
Knights of Columbus



St Mark's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th
9:30 a.m. on Church Grounds

Children 8 years old and younger are invited to participate in the egg hunt.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and join the fun to watch the kids find their treats!

Don't forget your Easter Baskets!



Scholarship Recipients Announced

By Deacon Steve Marques

It's Springtime, the time when high school seniors focus on the future. Some are seeking fulltime employment in June, others are considering further schooling at universities, vocational schools or other educational institutions. For those planning on furthering their schooling, a major consideration is usually finding ways to cover the costs. Ten of our parish youth will be receiving financial reward from two of our parish organizations, The Women's Guild and The Knights of Columbus.

While many scholarships are based primarily on academic performance, these scholarships require more. Each student must demonstrate writing skills through an essay and verbal skills by an interview of a six member board. Applicants must also demonstrate participation in school and community activities. But most importantly, they must demonstrate lifetime performance in Church-related activities.

The selection process involves 20 evaluators, half from the Women's Guild and half from the Knights of Columbus, using a process of anonymity, except for the interviews. The two organizations are pleased to announce the following. The Wom-

en's Guild selectees for 2023 are: Tori Bland (Johnson H.S.), Briseida Diaz (Johnson H.S.), Marina Mangan, (Smithson Valley H.S.), Brady Rabel (Madison H.S.), Aymee Santos

(Churchill H.S.). The Knights of Columbus selectees are: Maria Cochran (Clark H.S.), Madison McLearnie (Johnson H.S.), Zachary Ohlenforst (Smithson Valley H.S.), Nathaniel Rotter (Churchill H.S.), Trent Rotter (Churchill H.S.).

The Knights of Columbus fund their scholarships by their quarterly Chicken Barbeque, and the Women's Guild raises funds with its Spring Scholarship Luncheon.

Our St Mark community congratulates these youth for their exceptional performance, and we wish them blessings in the future.

Deacon Steve Marques is the Scholarship Lead at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Congratulations!

2023

Women's Guild Scholarship Recipients:



- Tori Bland (Johnson High School)
- Briseida Diaz (Johnson High School)
- Mariana Mangan (Smithson Valley High School)
- Brady Rabel (Madison High School)
- Aymee Santos (Churchill High School)

Knights of Columbus Recipients:



- Maria Cochran (Clark High School)
- Madison McLearnie (Johnson High School)
- Zachary Ohlenforst (Smithson Valley High School)
- Nathaniel Rotter (Churchill High School)
- Trent Rotter (Churchill High School)



Please join us as our young church celebrates the

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

THURSDAY - JUNE 1 - 7:00PM

with Rev. Dennis Aréchiga
and our local Auxiliary

BISHOP GARY JANAK

All are welcome to witness this
awesome sacrament!



“Cast All Your Worries on Him Because He Cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

By Megan Byers

The St. Mark Young Church annual Spring Retreat took place at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville, Texas, the weekend of March 10-12. On Friday night, 38 teens and 7 adults departed St. Mark, each of us going to a new place, unsure of what the Lord had in store.

We broke open the theme for this formation year, “Always Forward,” by identifying the burdens we face in our daily lives and learning how to respond in the face of suffering. Our goal is to go “always forward” towards Heaven, but life gets in the way. We each experience different hardships that may make it difficult for us to move forward, but we are called to be persistent and resilient. We discussed the importance of prayer and the Sacraments and were given the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration. Many of our teens went to Confession for the first time in years, some hadn't been since their first Reconciliation! We are grateful for Rev. Rafael Duda and Msgr. Peter Flood for being available to hear confessions and offer the Lord's Love and Mercy.



Our schedule allowed for the teens to have a lot of time to grow in community and encounter the beauty of creation at the retreat center. Groups of teens hiked up to the cross overlooking the grounds and we were far enough out of the city to get a beautiful view of the stars at night, so many laid in the field looking up into the sky. We spent Saturday afternoon participating in low ropes team-building activities, playing volleyball, basketball, and Gaga ball, and enjoying the beautiful spring weather. This time was beneficial for many of our teens as they started to get to know each other and grow in friendship.

I lead our teens every Sunday night and watch as they sit on their phones and ignore each other during dinner or struggle to make conversation during small group time. Something about being on retreat makes them take down their walls and talk to the people in front of them. Seeing the teens that sit 5 feet from each other in New Legacy at Life Teen finally becoming friends, breaking out of their shells, showing their personalities, and feeling comfortable around new people is something I cherish as their Youth Minister. If you have ever chaperoned a

youth retreat, you may understand this experience.

Teens were coming up to me and saying, “I wish this retreat happened sooner because I feel like I know



people better now.” While I am taking their feedback into consideration for the upcoming formation year, I trust God's timing. I trust that this weekend was meant to happen when it did, it was meant to bring these teens together now. It was not an accident that God united this group of teens and adults to discuss the burdens in our lives and learn how to move forward together. The Holy Spirit is alive and moving in the hearts of the youth of St. Mark. He is bringing together a community that will radically transform our parish and world. Please keep praying for us! Pray especially for those who went on Spring Retreat and will sooner or later encounter the stress and worries of their daily lives, that they may be resilient and persistent and move “always forward.”

Megan Byers is the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Reaching Out to the Community

By Velma Spruel Williams



It is said that we never know when God will call us to render help to those in need of comfort, or who the messenger will be. Such is the story I wish to share with you.

Several months ago, I was approached by a member of our church, who noticed the items I would bring to Sunday Mass. Items requested for an ailing family member, or a friend, in need of "comforting."

A dear friend of mine, Mr. Roy Pearce, who shares the front pew with me at Sunday Mass, observed the joy on the faces of those who received the gifts we made for their loved one. After several weeks of observing, he asked me if he could attend one of my meetings. I invited

him to drop by that week. After observing our joy in creating our handmade crocheted and knitted items, he attended several times. I finally gave him and his friend Mr. Carlos a name tag, as they officially became honorary members. Mr. Pearce asked me if we would do a special project for the Veterans in Hospitals and Assisted Living Facilities. We discussed his idea, and decided to set aside some time to dedicate to this worthwhile project.

Mr. Pearce asked if we would make red, white, and blue lapghans for his fellow military servicemen and women, who are cared for after serving their country. I contacted one of the representatives of a facility we had donated other items to in the past, and they were overjoyed. Mr. Pearce also wanted to sponsor the yarn and other supplies needed to make them, so off we

went with this project. We received a headcount from my nursing facility contact, and we were ready to start the project to coincide with Veterans Day.

We finishing 24 lapghans and a prayer shawl for one of the female patients. Father Dennis agreed to come to our meeting room and graciously blessed every one of them. For privacy consideration, we will not show their faces in our article, but I would like to show you, Mr. Pearce, his friend, Carlos and some of the beautiful, smiling ladies who made the items, and many who were not pictured. The facility management and employees had a party for their Veteran patients, and distributed the lovingly handmade prayer shawl items to their patients. I am told that, "There were lots of smiles".

We say "Thank You, For Your



Service". With much gratitude, I thank all of the members of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We liked the project, and I pray that we will be able to offer our gratitude to others, who keep us safe in the future. Well done, everyone.

Peace be with you, and with your Spirit.

Velma Spruel is the Ministry lead for St. Mark's Prayer Shawl Ministry

ST. Mark VBS
JUNE 26-30, 2023

For more information and to register please contact:
Rita Cabello at (210) 494-1606 ext. 320

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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submissions for form and content.

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

APRIL 2023

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00am, 10:00 am,(livesreamed) 12 Noon 2:00 pm (Spanish) 5:00 pm
Monday	8:15 am
Tuesday	8:15 am
Wednesday	8:15 am, 6:00 pm (Day Chapel)
Thursday	8:15 am
Friday	8:15 am

First Saturday Mass 9:30 am

Holy Days

8:15am & 6pm
Eve of Holy Day 6pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-5pm
Wednesday 4:30 - 5:50 pm

Adoration

Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4:45pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 8:45 pm

Our mission:
TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS
OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL GOD'S
PEOPLE BY WORD AND ACTION.

He said to them, "Go into the whole world and
proclaim the gospel to every creature..."

Mark 16:15



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