

# The WINGED LION

NOVEMBER 2022

## A Reflection from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga

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### TIME TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD

“Ten were cleansed, were they not?

Where are the other nine?

Has none but this foreigner returned  
to give thanks to God?”

“Luke 17:17-18”

The excerpt from the Gospel of Luke 17:11-19 was proclaimed on the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time on October 9th and is also used for the Mass celebrated on Thanksgiving. Jesus healed the 10 lepers that cried out for his help, but only one, a Samaritan, a foreigner, returned to give thanks to Jesus for the gift of his healing. Often, we are like those nine who received a blessing from the Lord but have not taken the time to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the goodness we have received from God.

Thanksgiving is a time to stop and reflect upon the good things that have happened in our lives. I know I am grateful for my new assignment at St. Mark. I have so enjoyed getting to know you, the deacons, staff and parishioners whom I find to be not only people of faith but people who embody a spirit of service to others. What are some of the blessings you have received that you may have delayed giving thanks to God for? Be sure to take time to say a prayer of thanks for gifts received.

Here are a couple of quotes on the theme of thanksgiving from *The Book of Positive Quotations*.

“I thank You God for this most amazing day;  
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;  
and for everything which is natural,  
which is infinite, which is yes.”  
e. e. cummings

“The best things are nearest:  
breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes,  
flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you.  
Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life’s plain, common work as it comes,  
certain that daily duties and daily bread  
are the sweetest things of life.”  
Robert Louis Stevenson

*Fr. Dennis*



## What do you appreciate about your Catholic Faith?

2022 Women's Guild and Knights of Columbus Scholarship Applicants Respond.

My Catholic Faith is the foundation of all of my decisions and habits. I really came into owning my faith at Mission Trip when I was twelve years old. Prior to that, my faith was what my parents had taught me and we practiced at home and at church. The moment at Mission trip that this truly sunk in was during adoration. At Mission Trip I realized that aside from my family, I am never alone. God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit are with me. This security and love made me confident in my faith. That was my first time going to Adoration and it truly pulled me into the faith more. I felt the presence of God not only in front of me, but also around me in each of the other campers. After going to Mission trip for two years,

I began to go to more camps and retreats. I went to Covecrest, Spring Retreat, and ACTS Retreat. I enjoyed going to these camps because I was surrounded by so many people that were supportive and encouraging in leading me closed to God.

One of my favorite scriptures is Psalm 16:8 "I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." Knowing that I have God by my side at all times, helps me make morally correct decisions. I trust that with God guiding my life, I will not fail. God died for our sins, now I must honor him and live by His word. God reveals both sides of a decision for me, and He helps make my decisions clear. If it weren't for my faith life, I think I would be very lost

and misguided by all the evil in the world. God has made clear to me what is right and good. My faith makes me want to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in all that I do.

Currently, I am trying to decide if I should be a college athlete at a school that is small or if I should go to a university that I want to attend with friends and family nearby. I am praying a lot and trusting God will make my decision clear to me. This will be an act of faith and trust for me. This is probably the biggest decision I have ever made and I know it will shape my future. I am grateful that I have my faith which gives me confidence in the Lord.

*Essay written by one of the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Recipients.*



Above my bed hangs a wooden clothespin cross I made in a class of my first Holy Communion. As I grew and passed through elementary, middle school and high school, the cross has always hung on the wall, reminding me of Christ's great love for us. What I appreciate most about my Catholic faith is the values and sense of community it gives me.

All my life, my faith has guided me by teaching me what's important. Though I have made and will make many mistakes, my faith gives me a direction to improve in. If I'm stressed from school or my family, it picks me back up with the hope that things will get better if I continue to believe in God's will. It sets for me an ideal of patience, love, and kindness to follow.

Thanks to being raised Catholic, I also have been able to grow up within a strong community at St. Mark. Beginning with my mother and continuing with my pastors, Faith Formation leaders, and peers, I have been able to learn from the examples of others as they serve the community and raise each other up to become closer to God. When I started as an altar server in fourth grade, I was first exposed to the importance of service in my community and also began to more fully appreciate each part of Mass. Later, in preparing for Confirmation, I found a group of fellow students at LifeTeen meetings who came together to support each other as we grew curious about our faith. Serving people in the community through programs such

as Habitat for Humanity, Vacation Bible school, and Mobile Loaves and Fishes has been rewarding experiences for me because I can give back to the community and meet new people. It reflects the Catholic values of being part of one body in the church. These experiences of serving and learning from other people have shaped how I see the world and who I am today.

I appreciate my Catholic faith because it helps me grow in my life with its strong values and sense of community. I hope to continue practicing it with others as I head to college and beyond.

*Essay written by one of the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Recipients.*

# St. Mark Pro-life News



By Matt Troy

October 8th was a great day gathering as a community to pray in front of Planned Parenthood.

Three young couples were seen going to the prolife building across the street instead of using Planned Parenthood services. This gave me hope!

On top of that, I witnessed a record: three cars in a row gave us

a thumbs up. I'm not sure that has happened back to back before and I was very please to have been present for that moment.

There was a large turnout from our parish. Thank you very much to all that signed up to pray!

*Matt Troy is a one of the St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Volunteers.*





By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

The ancient Greek dramatist, Euripides, wrote, “No one can confidently say that he will still be living tomorrow.” We seldom focus on that reality and often act like we are confident of a tomorrow. However, we all know names of those who died suddenly, maybe in tragedy or simply in the quiet of sleep. Calling those names to mind will probably still not force most of us to contemplate our own mortality tonight before placing our head on the pillow, but perhaps it should.

We don't need to obsess about dying or fear the unknown, but realizing the gift of today and reflecting on the possibility that it may be our last day can cause us to act differently. We might forgive more easily, argue less, and embrace one another. Rather than procrastinate, we might

act now. We could become more mindful of our surroundings, see the needs in people, and reach out to those who are lost.

I write these Everyday Stewardship reflections every Sunday. You might read them in your parish bulletin, on a website, or in social media every Sunday. Just in case this is the last Sunday you ever have a chance to read these reflections, what is God calling you to do now before it's too late? If you are still here next Sunday after taking all this seriously, you might wonder at what it was to live more fully and to give of yourself more freely. Don't let a single day pass you by without truly loving others and your God. One thing you can be confident about: This day will never come again.

<https://4lpi.com/blog/this-day-wont-come-again/>



**A warm welcome to our new members**

**Maurice and Junko Cox**

**Bernard and Mary Rust**

**Alyson Brown**

**Duane and Lois Smith**

**Thomas and Denise Richter**

**Robert and Cindy Perez**

**Kenneth Huschke**

**Andrew McConnell**

**Simon Rodriguez**

**Sofia Rodriguez**



**Women's Guild**

**Sat. Nov. 20 | 9:30am - 5:30pm**

**Sun. Nov. 21 | 8:30am - 3:30pm**

**1602 Thousand Oaks Drive, S.A., Tx**

**Community Center (Gym)**

**Over 35 Artisans**

**Holiday Gifts Galore!!**

**Contact: Theresa Mulcahy 210.413.9526 or Liz Redshaw 210.834.5371**

# Gratitude of Lazarus

By Megan Byers

This season of life has been full of gratitude... or at least practicing gratitude. Alright, attempting to practice gratitude; I'm still learning!!

I lead our high school teens and some young adults in studying scripture on Wednesdays, and recently we discussed the disposition of gratitude (or lack thereof) in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

*"[Lazarus] would have gladly eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table." Luke 16:21*

While Jesus never explicitly says that Lazarus showed gratitude for being a beggar covered in sores, mentioning his desire to eat what someone else was throwing away helped us believe that Lazarus would have seen the scraps as a gift.

The rich man however, never saw what he had as a gift from God nor did he seek to share it with others in need. Someone pointed out that the rich man knew Lazarus by name and saw him every day, yet gave him nothing!! Instead he spent his wealth, lived comfortably, "dined

sumptuously," and chose not to share with others in need.

We talked about the importance of having a disposition of gratitude in our lives, so that we might not become like the rich man. This disposition of gratitude first requires us to recognize our gifts as such, gifts.

Everything we have has been given to us by God. God does not owe us anything, but He gives generously. When we practice gratitude, we learn to see everything as a gift, so that when we suffer, it does not affect our faith in God. Lazarus, in his poverty, was able to see the gift of his life. In the end the sores and hunger did not matter.

We talked about how difficult it can be to actually practice gratitude. It's one thing to talk about it for an hour, it's another thing to truly see everything in our life as a gift. Recently I am struggling with the reality that everything means everything.

It's easy to see that I am a good listener, and God provides me with plenty of opportunities to listen to friends, family, the teens I minister

to at St. Mark. It is easy to remember that the talents I possess are meant to be used to lift up the Body of Christ. It's harder to see the gifts in unpleasant things.

The people who are hard to love are a gift. Obstacles at work are a gift. Seasons of waiting are a gift. All unexpected and sometimes unwanted, but gifts nonetheless. The gift in each of those scenarios is that the Lord is present! There is always an invitation to lean on Him and call upon His grace to love, to overcome challenges, to be patient. The Lord is in every person I encounter, waiting to be recognized. The Lord is in every moment of suffering, longing to ease our pain by carrying it with me. The Lord is in every unmet desire, hoping to be enough for me.

It's great to be able to practice gratitude in the ways the rich man fell short, but the challenge that remains is to practice gratitude like Lazarus: to see God in my suffering and accept it as a gift.

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



## WELCOME/BIENVENDO FATHER JOSÉ LUIS MEJÍA!

The Parish of St. Mark the Evangelist is happy to have welcomed Fr. José Luis Mejía as our new Parochial Vicar. Fr. José Luis has been given a three year release from the Archdiocese of Guadalajara to minister in our Archdiocese of San Antonio. Fr. José Luis made this request for a transfer since his parents moved to San Antonio one year ago. His parents are José and Alicia Mejía. He also has two brothers and one sister and a one year old niece that live here.

Fr. José Luis has been ordained for four years. He served in a parish in Guadalajara that had over 20,000 parishioners and nine Masses on the

weekend. One of the differences he noted is that priests in Mexico are not allowed to wear clerical garb in public.

His main focus is to learn English, which he is studying at MACC, the Mexican American Catholic College. Please welcome him to our parish.



# Thank you for your support!

By Velma Spruel Williams

Thank you, to all those who have embraced our Ministry, just established in 2016. We are one of the youngest Ministries on Campus, but have become a well established and welcomed group.

You have proven to us, that our Ministry was needed, and is now, appreciated. We reached our sixth year, in August 2022. We have moved around campus, in several buildings, but managed to always find a way to make the space we were assigned, a welcoming room, to our members. We worked together to use and grow our knitting and crocheting skills. As we grew, advertised, and convinced those in need of comfort, that we could use our time and talents to help when you or a relative or friend were in need... many of you discovered what we do, you proved that we were "making A difference".

We have handmade hundreds of prayer shawls and lapghans, for those (women and men) who are ill, widowed, lonely, facing surgery, confined to bed, or in Hospice Care. We have developed community outreach programs, to dialysis and chemo patients, who use our items to warm themselves as they have to

receive their treatments, in cold rooms. We have crocheted and knitted tiny caps and blankets for the NICU, at a nearby hospital, for the preemie babies. You, our parishioners, have requested our items for your relatives, and friends, all over our country including Hawaii, and as far away as Germany. We have donated our items to "The People of Uvalde" after the shooting. Two of our members drove our gifts to Uvalde, and delivered them to the catholic church, for distribution to those who lost loved ones on that day. We are currently working on an outreach project with a nearby hospice facility, for a Veterans Day event.

All of our items are Blessed, first with Msgr. Kevin Ryan, for over 5 years, and now, with our new Priest, Father Dennis Aréchiga, who graciously agreed to continue blessing our items.

I invite you to call me, or drop by our meeting room, if you are in need of one of our handmade items which we call " a spiritual hug" from us, to



you, for your loved ones. Join us as a new member; or offer support of our efforts, through donations. All are welcome, it is fun! We meet on Fridays, from 11 am- 1pm, Bldg. #9 on West Campus. Can't make it to meetings? We work, mostly, from home, and bring in our completed projects. So, you have that option. We sign out the yarn, and work from the convenience of home. For more information, please call me at 210-416-5563. Come join us! You can "make a difference." Blessings to all.

*Velma Spruel Williams is the Ministry Lead for St. Mark's Prayer Shawl Ministry*



By Rita Cabello

Christmas is quickly approaching and we are happy to announce that we are planning our Christmas Pageant. We would like to invite children ages 5-10 years old to participate in the re-enactment of the Christmas Gospel story during the Children's Christmas Eve Mass on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. The costumes will be provided.

The children are required to attend a mandatory rehearsal on Monday, Dec. 19, from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary. The children will receive their costumes at that time. There is a \$15 deposit fee, which will be reimbursed when the costumes have been returned after the Christmas Eve Mass.

The children participating must be dressed in their costume by 3:30 pm on Saturday, December 24, 2022

If you would like for your child to participate in this spiritual and meaningful celebration, please contact Rita Cabello at rcabello@stmarkevangelist.com or the Children's Ministry office at (210) 494-1606, ext. 320.

*Rita Cabello is the Children's Ministry Coordinator at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

# Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph



We invite you to the Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph on Sunday, December 11, 2022 from 8:30 - 9:45 am and 11:30 am - 12:45 pm in the Community Center Gym.

Your gift donations will go to The Guadalupe Home for unwed moms. Guadalupe Home is a transitional living program for women who find themselves without shelter and basic needs who are pregnant and/or parenting and are over the age of 18. Guadalupe Home provides safe shelter and support services in a home-like environment for mothers and their children to nurture and support their family unit. Support services are provided to residents to care for themselves and their children while moving towards self sufficiency.

Additionally, opportunities for personal development are offered to their residents including assistance with goal setting and achievement, establishing priorities and effective

decision making. Guadalupe Home encourages residents to take steps towards becoming independent, while creating a new life for their family.

Donated items in need are: Baby clothes, baby bottles, baby blankets, toothpaste, gently used clothes and baby items, toothbrushes, baby lotion, baby soap, baby shampoo, baby oil, diapers, baby wipes, nail clippers, sippy cups, pacifiers, baby toys.

The children will participate in games, crafts and snacks in the gym. Come join the fun!

Donations can be brought to the copy room in the Community Center Building. For more information please call Rita Cabello at (210) 494-1606 ext 320.

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER CALENDAR

November Mass Schedule	December Mass Schedule	December
All Saints Day Tuesday, November 1st 8:15 am Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm (Parish Offices Closed)	First Saturday Mass December 3rd   9:30 am	Parish Reconciliation Service Saturday, December 10th 9:00 am - 11:00 am
All Souls Day Wednesday, November 2nd 8:15 am Mass of Remembrance 7:00 pm	Vigil Mass for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 7 at 7:00 pm	Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary at 6:30 Mass and Las Mañanitas at 7:00 am Mass at 8:15 am
Thanksgiving Day Mass Wed. November 24th 9:00 am Main Sanctuary (Campus will close after Mass)	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation) (Parish Offices will be closed) 8:15 am and 7:00 pm Mass	Parish Reconciliation Service Wednesday December 14th 6:00 - 8:30 pm 6:00 pm Mass cancelled
Friday, November 25th Campus Closed	Feast Day of Juan Diego Friday, December 9th	Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

*The*  
**WINGED LION**

NOVEMBER 2022

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga | Pastoral Administrator:



### 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 & 7pm

Eve of Holy Day 7pm

Reconciliation Saturday 3:30-5pm

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



[www.stmarkevangelist.com](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com) | 210.494.1606