

The WINGED LION

NOVEMBER 2021

A MESSAGE from Msgr. Kevin Ryan

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*“Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another.”—
St. Vincent de Paul*

My Dear People,

Our Stewardship Renewal weekend is November 6-7, 2021. As in years past, you will be asked to renew your commitment to giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. Please bring your completed card with you to Mass. We will renew our commitment together as a parish family.

How have we challenged your commitment to Missionary Discipleship this past month? Were you able to identify those who have not returned to church, pray for them and initiate an invitation to return to church? How have you served others? Some of my fondest memories of my parents were of their dedicated service to our Irish community as Vincentians. I recall Sunday afternoons where they would pack boxes of food from the local council of St. Vincent de Paul. From there we would put those boxes in our trunk and spend the afternoon delivering groceries and necessities to those families in need.

The St. Vincent de Paul Council at our parish remained active during the pandemic. They worked tirelessly throughout the past 18 months to assist with rent and utility payments, distribute food, and attend to their clients' spiritual needs; all in the name of Missionary Discipleship. Our council is in need of additional volunteers to carry out its mission, as well as food for their Thanksgiving distribution. The weekend of November 6-7, after you have completed your Stewardship Renewal commitment, there will be brown bags available in the narthex to pick up. I invite you to fill the bags with the items requested and return them to the narthex the following week. I also challenge you to spend some time volunteering alongside our Vincentians in addition to filling a brown bag. Consider it a solid act of missionary discipleship for the month of November.

Our Winged Lion this month includes articles written by our parishioners speaking to how they have engaged others with their ministries in missionary discipleship through quilting, acknowledging blessings, and volunteering for Traveling Loaves and Fishes. You will also find essays written by two of our scholarship recipients detailing how the pandemic transformed their lives.

Our year ahead is going to be a year of returning to our mission and returning to an attitude of missionary discipleship. I invite you, as people transformed by the Eucharist, to carry the Gospel into the world in your daily lives through word and action.

In Christ,

Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan



“How Have The Pandemic Restrictions Affected Your Faith Life?”

2021 Women’s Guild and Knight of Columbus Scholarship Applicants Respond.

By Catherine Buley



Ironically, the pandemic had a positive impact on my faith life. Although I missed out on several junior and senior year activities, and an opportunity to go compete with my high school a cappella group in New York City, I have developed a stronger, more dependent relationship with Christ. Being so involved in academics, extracurriculars, and church activities, time seemed to move faster than I could and I found myself exhausted and deprived of time and God. As activities began to be cancelled and the world shut down in early March, I was both devastated

and relieved. The isolation forced me to stop moving, and at last, I was able to sit in the presence of the Holy Spirit, close out the distractions, commitments, and responsibilities, and focus entirely on prayer.

It helped that Lent had started not long before the pandemic restrictions began and I still had the commitments I made to God and myself. My Lenten promises were adjusted for staying home. One was to pray the rosary every day. To help me stay committed, I invited my friends to pray with me at three o’clock everyday on FaceTime. I became something I actively looked forward to and scheduled around. In addition to praying the rosary, I read the daily psalm as soon as I woke up and reflected on it, which helped me start my day off correctly, in prayer. I was able to actively invite God to walk through my day with me rather than keep Him looking over my shoulder

as I rushed through my day.

While the pandemic brought many tears and sorrows, it also brought growth and contentment. The seed of my faith had been planted when I was confirmed, but stopping to care for it allowed my faith to mature and, yes, become childlike again. Now that the restrictions are somewhat lifted and we can attend Mass again in person, I find that I am more attentive and involved than ever before. I prepare for and enjoy Mass rather than check it off my to do list. I also have learned ways to add prayer into my regular day, attending adoration for at least 15 minutes after school daily and writing prayers on sticky notes to post on my computer. I actively invite God into every aspect of my life and have never been more at peace in the midst of chaos.

Catherine Buley is one of the Women’s Guild Scholarship Recipients

By Kaitlyn Holzmann



It was March 13th, 2020, when my faith life received news of its first “snow-day.” Father Kevin announced Spring Retreat would

include the last Mas celebration for a while, and we felt *special*. An extra week off from school would follow and life obtained excitement as plans and routines strayed from their normal paths. Yet, reality would eventually kick in and faith would be tested as weeks turned into months and the Eucharist continued to be received through a screen. I accepted the seal of the Holy Spirit in May of 2019, ecstatic to finally be confirmed. What

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I did not know, though, is that my faith would face many trials so soon after the Sacrament. I had to take responsibility for my faith, pushing myself toward Christ in a world that felt so void of His presence.

Like most, COVID-19 brought a lot of loss. It increased tensions and frustration, leading to the loss of all my best friends—some of which I had know all my life. Tearing my ACL in March, I dealt with physical and mental battles alone, fighting with everything I had to get back on the soccer field. My depression reached peak severity— and I couldn’t see God. I looked for Him and cried out, yet felt no response. I longed for the community experienced at Lifeteen and the deep love felt on ACTS retreats. I missed Eucharistic adoration and being in a place where the presence of God was overwhelming. I wanted more than anything to feel seen, known, and loved by more

than just my family. Unfortunately, the pandemic would continue to restrict my life and keep me distanced from the joy only Christ could provide.

If the pandemic has taught me one thing, it’s the importance of hope. It is through faith we can have hope, holding onto the belief that God’s glory and power will prevail in the darkness. Hope has reminded me to continue to pursue God even as I journey through this dry season. It has left me to drive to the Holy Spirit parking lot and journal, knowing a wall is the only thing between me and the Eucharist. It has caused me to watch Mass every Sunday, no matter how far I still feel. Hope was restored when Jesus rose from the grave; it is through his same virtue that I await my own resurrection.

Kaitlyn Holzmann is one of the Women’s Guild Scholarship Recipients.

The most important thing you can give Someone is.....Time.

By Nancy Forget

During the month of October Traveling Loaves and Fishes decorates our middle campus into a glorious Pumpkin Patch. Did you know about this beautiful piece of St. Mark property? Amongst the huge oaks we celebrate and offer fall fun to raise funds to feed San Antonio's hungry and homeless, with dignity. TLF offers many opportunities for stewardship. More than 100 volunteers minister with prayer, food - preparing, delivering and serving meals every day, along with warm socks, hats and blankets, kindly looking into eyes hungry for more than food and warmth, acknowledging all God's children. "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:30

When young we think we have forever. At age 10, or sadly at age 60, it finally hits us that the most rewarding thing you can do is to give your time for someone else. You might 'live for today,' every day just gratifying your own desires to be happy. Loneliness and sadness can find you. But, when you give up some of your selfish time, to do what



others need, your life will be blessed with a peace within. You'll feel your own soul and know that God offers you an extreme depth of love for others and yourself. "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do." 1 Thes 5:11 It's comfortable helping out family, friends, and teammates. Sharing some of your life's time, for the sake of them, you show that you care. When you're ready you will heed the message of the prophets of Christ to realize your Christian potential,

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we

must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35. Stop and take time to find where you can best serve our Lord and all people through one of the many ministries in our parish and our community. You'll find that your relationships will improve and you'll discover a happiness in yourself that you didn't know could happen when you give some of your precious time, with a loving heart.

Nancy Forget is a Traveling Loaves and Fishes Core Member.

We are Grateful for our Knights of Columbus

The St. Mark the Evangelist Church and community would like to thank the Knights of Columbus Council #7613 for all the help and support they have provided in the past few months. The Knights are always willing and ready to help our church as well as our preschool. This summer they were a tremendous help to the Preschool with cleaning and assisting in getting all areas ready to receive our teachers and students in the fall. In order to welcome back our ministires, they

helped with many projects on West Campus so we could host meetings and special events. We also thank them for helping with the installation of the monitors in the main Sanctuary. Your willingness to help with any project and need we or any other ministry at St. Mark is appreciated. St. Mark is grateful for all of the ways the Knights unify one parish and continue to be a model of charitable service.





By Tracy Earl Welliver

Saint John Paul II, on the feast of the Immaculate conception, wrote in his homily, “sanctifying grace is, in fact, the divine life as grafted into the human soul.” We begin life without this grace due to original sin, but Mary was conceived without original sin, and therefore, had this grace at her conception. Saint John Paul II points out that Mary then was able to concern herself with our redemption and say yes to being the Mother of God in a “perfect and universal manner,” since she did not need to focus that energy on herself. WE are then to follow her example and use the gift of grace that we receive through the sacraments and Jesus’ redemptive action of His passion to bring about the Kingdom of God.

For Everyday Stewards, this is pretty heady stuff, but also very important. The modern canonized saint uses this theology to impress

upon us the importance of not becoming cultural Catholics, but committed disciples instead. He wrote the quoted homily in 1959, and the warning against the *relegation of faith* sounds even more urgent today. Mary’s existence was key to God’s plan of redemption. It was her destiny. We are called to build the Kingdom of God and share the Good News of redemption, leading to the conversion and then salvation of souls. That is our destiny.

We must never brush off the place we have in God’s plan. How will those we see in our everyday lives come to know the Lord and then find salvation? Mary was the instrument by which the Incarnation came into the world. We are called to be the instruments by which that same Jesus Christ comes into the worlds of those who do not know him.

Taken from Everyday Stewardship by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

Justin Valchar

James and Joanna Hargett

John Robert Leal

Steven and Audrey Westbrook

Thomas and Aryana Wilson

Raul and Erin Rodriguez

Jason and Melissa Smith



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

The Yvonne Cosgrove Concert Series Presents

The Arriosa Trio



Friday, November 12
7 p.m. | Main Sanctuary

Featuring

Bassam Nashawati, Violinist
 Basel Sarweh, Cellist
 Jean Park, Pianist



Free Admission
 1602 Thousand Oaks Drive
 San Antonio, TX | 210-494-1606

A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry

By Megan Byers

The Youth Ministry Team at St. Mark completed a book study over the summer using *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, a document released by the USCCB in 1997. We were asked to evaluate our program based on the goals, themes, and components for a comprehensive ministry with adolescents detailed in the book. Throughout our numerous meetings and planning sessions and presentations about this book, I was always drawn back to how the Bishops emphasized youth ministry being the responsibility of the entire church community.

Along with teaching our youth about the Gospel and providing them with opportunities to encounter the love of Jesus Christ, it is our responsibility to show them how to make the Catholic Faith their own. It is our responsibility to encourage them to actively participate during Mass and learn about how the Lord is calling them to live out their vocation.

“Young people need to have a true opportunity for exploring what discipleship ultimately involves... [they] need to know and be known by the Church's ministers if they are to better understand how God is calling them to live as disciples.” (RTV, 11)

A great example of this is welcoming them into the Liturgy and allowing them to serve as Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Lectors, and Cantors. We want our young people to take ownership of their faith and live boldly as disciples of Jesus Christ!

On Father's Day I was asked to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) at the 10 am Mass along with Catherine Buley who was an active member of the youth program at St. Mark all throughout middle and high school

and served as music director for the 2021 Teen ACTS Retreat. Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak came to celebrate Mass with us, and since he has been put in charge of vocations for the Archdiocese, Robert Martinez, our Liturgy Director, invited many young people to serve in different capacities for that Mass.

Like Catherine, I was an active member of St. Mark's Youth Ministry in middle and high school and I am now honored to be working as Assistant Youth Minister for St. Mark. Our Youth Ministry team has been working hard to bring the young people back to Church. One of the ways we are trying to get the youth more involved is by inviting them to participate in the liturgy. We want to teach them how to make this faith their own and bring their energy, ideas, and talents to parish life.

Catherine loves being an EMHC! She said “making sure Christ gets to people physically” is what makes serving in this way so special. She understands the significance of serving the Church in this way and finds joy through participating in the Mass as an EMHC.

Before the Mass began, I overheard a comment about Catherine's and my age and which mass time we frequented that didn't sit right with me.

Catherine and I were extremely honored to have been asked to serve at that Mass. I hadn't served as an EMHC since before the pandemic, and I hadn't realized how much I missed serving in that capacity. It brought me closer to the Lord, physically and spiritually. I prepared my heart in the week leading up to the Mass; I went to Confession, I was praying constantly - in thanksgiving for the opportunity to represent St. Mark and its young people, for the grace to do the job well, and not fall on my face and drop Jesus in front of Bishop Gary in the process... Age or preferred Mass time shouldn't matter, the youth should have a place in

this Church beyond the Sunday 5pm Mass and regularly scheduled youth group programs and events.

Our young people often get labeled as the “future Church,” but if we are evangelizing and catechizing them correctly, they should know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ right now. They are the Church, now.

I share this story not to chastise anyone or share gossip, but to offer encouragement and ask for help in creating a welcoming environment for our youth. We are calling our community for young people “Young Church,” we are committed to teach them that they are essential and their participation is necessary for our Church. I hope we can count on your support in making teens feel at home here and take ownership of their faith in new ways.

Megan Byers is the Assitant Youth Minister at St. Mark the Evangelist.



**SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Canned Meat	Peanut Butter & Jelly
Canned Peaches	Saltine Crackers
Beef Vegetable Soup	Pancake Mix & Syrup
Spaghetti Sauce	Cookies
Pasta	Stuffing
HEB Brand coffee	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Canned Corn	Canned Pumpkin
Green Beans	Cranberry Sauce
Macaroni & Cheese	Shampoo
Rice (1lb bag)	Toothpaste
Cereal/Oatmeal	Toilet Paper

Anytime...You...Are...Blessed!

By Carmen Frankel

After all you have heard, are hearing, and living through, during the crisis of 2020, and 2021 Don't Believe We Are IN The Dark When You Are the Light! "Remain Blessed" is a study plan our group has endeavored to continue to follow throughout the years since the Pandemic Guidelines began. Here is a briefing of what we have been discussing through the years at various Zoom meetings. Prayerfully in part this sharing with you will bring insight and spiritual food needed to maintain our "joy in the Lord".

Have you exercised your right to remain blessed? Invited the Holy Spirit to be your guide for the day? Experienced an Encounter with the Holy Spirit? Of course you have! and you may at any time! Matt. 13:16 "Blessed are your eyes because you see, Blessed are your ears because they hear"

"You are blessed to see, You are blessed to hear, not only in the flesh but in the spirit. As you are baptized a new creation in Christ and suffer to die to the fleshly-self and become more alive in the light Christ. In Christ You are appointed." (Luke 22:29)

Here are some highlights to help grasp that appointment. 1. OUR RESPONSIBILITY 2. PURPOSE 3. GIFTS OF HEALING – DO'S and DON'TS 4. PRINCIPALS AND PRIORITIES

OUR RESPONSIBILITY - Firstly, Jesus appeals to us to come to him. Read Matthew 11:28 because he supplies what our souls need to work with the Holy Spirit and to be pleasing to God the Father. Amen

Secondly, Jesus commands us to take His Yoke, this exposes to us of our inability to achieve anything on our own, including most importantly in the area of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, We are consoled and comforted in Jesus' appeal,

God is creating a deeper work in us, deeper than we could ever be accomplish on our own. To understand that we are "Justified" in Christ through faith. We are to appropriate his triumph at the Cross. Galatians 3:1-5, and 7-14 Now comes the faith, a faith of Grace, to put into action your faith in him is your action of responsibility. To stay in the His Grace, remaining blessed in His Grace is not work or duty it is an action of "JOY". St. Paul wrote in all things to call them joy, because we are near and working nearer to God. In our trials we are to live justified in Christ more and with each one we do become more aware in finding the joy of Justification becoming holy and accepted by God's plan. We will find joy of the purification of sanctification in times of trials that we must endure to bring about spiritual growing within our spirit of HIM as HIS children. Amazing!!!

It makes sense then, that we are now partakers with God. We want to remain in His grace with holy love toward Him, just as we would want to be in the company of our loved ones here on earth. Jesus will enable us to walk a new life with the Holy Spirit whom he said MUST come to carry out the New Covenant with him by means of the Holy Spirit. The Third Person of the Holy Trinity will empower us with grace to remain with Him

throughout our conversion to holy transformation now if sought. Why be deceived by an unholy spirit one fallen from the grace of God when Jesus has said the other advocate for us must come after his resurrection in the upper room Jesus breathed upon the believers in the presence of Mother Mary the Holy Spirit. The mis-understanding has never been with God's part of the covenant to keep his promises it has always been on the part of man who could not keep the promises. This is why Jesus came and why the Holy Spirit is here on earth with us to keep the mission of Christ Salvation on going. Before Christ man never could. That was not God's Plan, His Plan is Salvation. It was ONLY JESUS who walked on earth and kept the laws of the first Covenant perfectly! Everyone in Christ can keep the covenant now in Jesus. Jesus made the New Covenant possible with his perfect life. Jesus is the guarantor of our new life in him! WE...ARE...Blessed. Amen

Well that was not as brief as I thought there is so much more to share. Praying we may share more together on more of the highlights you are appointed to, purpose, gifts of healings do's and don'ts, principals and priorities prayerfully another time. Thank you for taking the time to share. And Remain blessed no matter what you hear or see! God Bless and as always "All Good Graces All"

Carmen Frankel is The Spirit and the Word Charismatic Praise & Prayer Group Leader at St. Mark the Evangelist and Service Committee Member Archdiocese of San Antonio Catholic Charismatic Center of Renewal Catholic Lay Evangelist Speaker.



The Lion's Pride, Creating Quilts to Comfort the Ill in our Community.

By Nicki Hibbits, Lorna Dressler, Kris Gross, Wanda Hopson and Pat Brookes

The St. Mark Quilter's "The Lion's Pride" number one goal is to create quilts for those in our church community who are ill or have a friend or family member who could benefit from a comfort quilt. During COVID when the quilters couldn't meet at Christopher Hall, we were individually making twin size quilts for the San Antonio chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We were able to donate around 13 quilts for their 100 bed Christmas drive! They were very appreciative and showcased our quilts in their newsletter. We also were able to deliver a stack of children's quilts to the Children's Hospital downtown at Christmas.

New members are always welcome so we invite you to come by the quilting room. We meet on Fridays, 9am – 2pm; the room is located on the second floor in Christopher Hall. You can come see

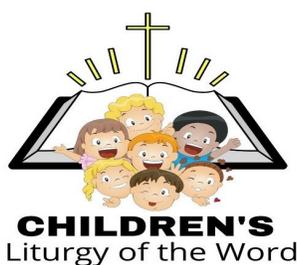
what we are all about and hang out for a while. You can bring your own project to work on or you can pick out some fabric from our stash and start planning and cutting a quilt. Whether you have been quilting for decades, haven't started yet, or fall somewhere in between, no matter your skill level we will help you start a quilt, finish or repair one. There will be one or more quilters to welcome you and help you get the lay of the land. We also support each other in our quilting journeys, we share both personal and charity projects, we help each other with fabric selection, and troubleshooting problems or doing short lessons on a technique. Our room is filled with noise and activity created by those who love to quilt. We are a diverse group of women of all skill levels and interests who enjoy some social time while working and playing with quilting projects.

We also make small fidget quilts that provide calming activities for folks with dementia, Aspersers,



Autism, or other disabilities. There is something for everyone to participate in. So, if you love color, patterns, fabric and handmade quilts consider joining the St. Mark quilting group. There are no dues or regulations, only fun quilting and enjoying the company of a group of wonderful people. We do take a break for lunch so bring a bite to eat. We look forward to seeing you on any Friday at Christopher Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Wanda Hopson at (210) 844-6333 or Pat Brookes at (210) 416-3933

Nicki Hibbits, Lorna Dressler, Kris Gross, Wanda Hopson and Pat Brookes are members of the Lion's Pride at St. Mark the Evangelist.



By Rita Cabello

Liturgy of the Word for Children is a program in which the Sunday scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to children in grades K-5 at the 10:00 am Sunday Mass from September through May. Any child in this age group may participate, no registration is necessary.



What exactly do they do?

The children gather with their leaders in the front of the altar after the Opening Prayer and are sent forth by the presider. They process to the Chapel. After a brief Welcome and Opening Prayer, they listen to the First Reading proclaimed from the Children's Lectionary. This reading will be proclaimed by one child volunteer. They are then led in singing a Psalm and Gospel Acclamation. Next, the Gospel is proclaimed by one of the adult leaders. After this, the adult leader will

unfold the Gospel in a roll play with the participation of children volunteers. The adult then will explain at an age-appropriate reflection on the Word through stories, discussions, or pictures - whatever the leader finds most appropriate in conveying the meaning of the scriptures. The children are then invited to share their own thoughts and ideas. Following this, we close with Prayers, and finally return to their families at the time of the Presentation of the Gifts.

If you would like to know more information or if you are interested in participating as a facilitator, please call Rita Cabello (210) 494-1606 Ext. 320.

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

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

NOVEMBER 2021

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan | Pastoral Administrator: Dot Hamlin

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5pm 7:30am,
Sunday	10am, (Livestreamed)
	12 Noon 2pm (Spanish)
	& 5pm
Monday	8:15
Tuesday	8:15 am, 5:00 pm
Wednesday	8:15 am
Thursday	8:15 am
Friday	8:15 am

Holy Days
8:15am & 7pm

Eve of Holy Day
7pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:30-5pm

Adoration
Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4:45pm



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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