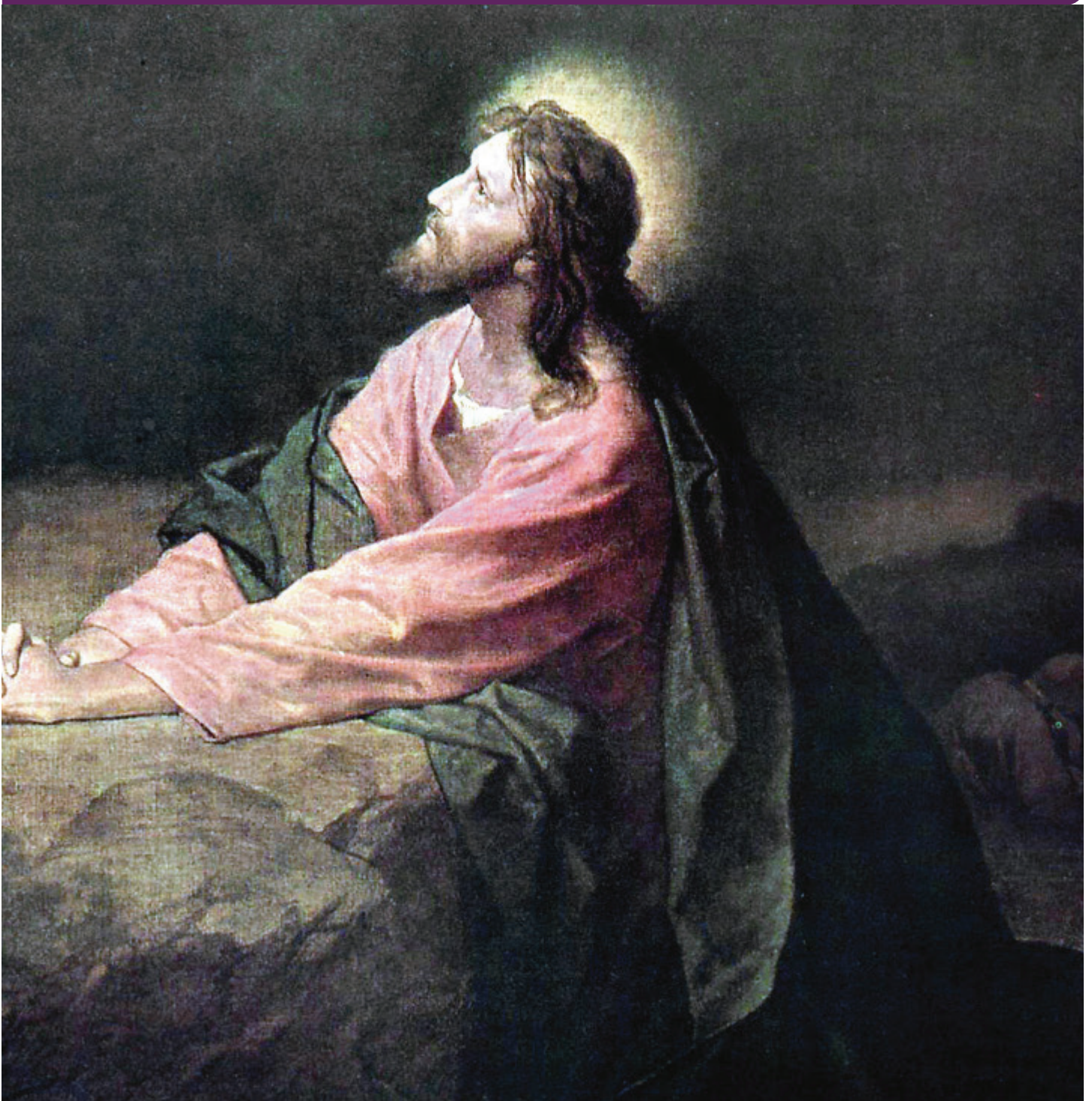


*The*  
**WINGED LION**

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church



MARCH 2023



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## A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga



### PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

*“Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you;  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me,  
and in all your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into your hands I commend my soul;  
I offer it to you with all the love of my  
heart,  
for I love you, Lord,  
and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands,  
without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence,  
For you are my Father.”*

*Charles de Foucauld*

What do you think of when you hear the word “Lent”? Fasting and remembering to abstain from meat on Fridays, choosing to offer one special thing up to the Lord, carving out extra time for prayer and worship, making a thorough examination of conscience and a good confession or two, are just some of the things that this special word conjures. The old English origin of the word is “lengten” or to “lengthen,” as in days becoming longer in spring as we transition out

of the darkness of winter. So, Lent should also evoke the beauty and power of spring – new buds and blossoms, new growth and life, a fuller measure of the sun’s rays and light, as nature’s transformation symbolizes the transformation that springs forth in our souls.

Of course, Lent is about turning away from sin as we were commanded to do on Ash Wednesday. The words of Psalm 51 full of contrition and conversion ring true to our Lenten journey:

*“Have mercy on me O God, in your  
goodness;  
in your abundant compassion blot  
out my offense.*

*Wash away all my guilt; from all my  
sin cleanse me.*

*For I know my offense; my sin is  
always before me. . . .*

*Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be  
pure;  
wash me, make me whiter than  
snow. . . .*

*A clean heart create for me, God;  
renew in me a steadfast spirit.”*

Lent is described in one of the prayers for the liturgy as a joyful season! Truly, when we examine our conscience, confess our sins, and experience the gift of reconciliation, our newly clean hearts make our spirits soar with the purification our souls have received.

Looking to the prayer from Charles de Foucauld above, Lent is also about abandonment and surrender. Deeper questions for us to ask lest we be mired in what we are giving up involve the giving up of our entire will to God’s will. We can ask ourselves: what do you want of me Lord or where do you wish to lead me? Possibilities include a new way of experiencing prayer, a more humble and compassionate spirit, or even a new form of service never

before attempted. May we open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit as through our love of God seek to abandon ourselves to God’s most holy will.

### *A Prayer for Lent*

All-powerful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, by water and the  
Holy Spirit, you freed us  
from sin and gave us new  
life.

During this season of Lent,  
send you Holy Spirit once  
again to guide us into  
solitude and reflection. Be  
with us through the  
desolation of the desert,  
fortify us against the evil  
one, and renew us in the  
living waters of Jesus.

Give us a courageous and  
resolute spirit, a spirit of  
sobriety and humility, that  
we may have eyes to see the  
darkness within us and the  
painful reality of our sin.

Wash us clean again,  
O Spirit, and fill us with  
wonder and awe in your  
presence.

We ask this through Christ,  
Our Lord. Amen.

## Living Our Mission Continues

By Mary Anne Votion

In response to the exponential growth of the parish community, St. Mark acquired the property adjacent to the parish campus, located along Hwy 281 for \$4.1 Million. This purchase in 2013 has allowed the parish to expand our parish mission. Buildings have been renovated and

repurposed for gathering and faith formation. Facilities are available for rental to the public.

In November 2014 we as parishioners prayerfully considered contributing to the capital campaign, "Living Our Mission, Growing Our Future," to reduce the debt associated with the acquisition of the west campus buildings and land. To date

we currently owe less than \$1 Million. To continue payment of our debt, the fourth collection each month goes towards the reduction of this debt. We prayerfully request you help us in the mission as we continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

## It's Time To Get Your Retreat On!

By Jonathan Bassett

St. Mark ACTS Core is ecstatic to announce that retreats are being planned for 2023! It has been a long time coming and we couldn't be happier. ACTS retreats have been an integral part in the growth of fellowship and the feeling of community at St. Mark since 2001. Our retreat schedule was interrupted by COVID, but all is good and we invite you to enjoy the camaraderie and spiritual enrichment that many of us have experienced while on retreat.

Here is the ACTS retreat schedule for 2023:

- June 15-18: Men in Recovery
- June 29-July 2: Men
- July 13-16: Men (Spanish)
- July 13-16: Teen ACTS – Disciple Oaks, Gonzales TX
- August 24-27: Women (Spanish)
- September 7-10: Women
- November 16-19: Women in Recovery
- December 7-10: Men in Recovery

All adult retreats will be held at the Cordi Marian Retreat Center, San Antonio.

ACTS is an acronym meaning

Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. The retreats are organized and conducted by your fellow parishioners and take place over a three day period. The retreat weekends are fun, interactive and spiritually fulfilling.

If you would like additional information on adult retreats, please contact Sharron Hanson (210-274-0819) or Jonathan Bassett (210-240-5493). Information on Teen ACTS can be obtained by contacting the church office (210-494-1606).

*Jonathan Bassett is the ACTS Core Lead at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

## Prayers for our Confirmandi

By Megan Byers

As we journey through the Lenten season together, please join me in praying for this group of Confirmandi. There are 50 teens preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 1, 2023. We meet almost every Sunday evening to gather as a community, discuss different topics of our faith, and pray. We completed a series on the Sacraments at the beginning of February and will conclude the semester discussing the life of St. Paul, his conversion, and the missionary work he did for the Early Church. May this group of young people be influenced by the life of St. Paul and continue to

fall in love with Jesus, His Church, and the Sacraments.

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

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!





## Good Stewards

By Most Rev. Marcel Gervais

It is wonderful to see people come to church! Most are filled with devotion and expectations. We come to church wanting things to be right. This attitude, can easily allow us to slip into one of coming to church, "to be served."

We are so much a part of a consumer society that we sometimes develop an attitude of going to church the same way we go grocery shopping. It is just one more thing to do. There is only one way to cure this attitude of consumerism in church: that is, active participation in the life of the church itself.

It is the same with our families. If grown children simply take whatever they can get from their parents and never give to the life of the family, they eventually find themselves outsiders, looking in. One who participates in the family and one who participates in the life of the church is one who contributes his time, talent, and treasure to them and one who receives innumerable blessings in return.

*Most Rev. Marcel Gervais, Archbishop of Ottawa, CA - Sixty Second Stewardship Sermons*

## Thank You For Your Service

Gerald and Judy Gaenslen distinguish themselves in their compassion and service to the poor through St. Vincen de Paul, St. Mark sponsored Traveling Loaves and Fishes, and Criminal Justice

ministry. Gerald is the President of Kolbe Prison Ministries. Judy is a member of the Women's Guild and volunteers her time to assist the Bookeeping Office on Monday mornings.

*Welcome to Our  
New Members*

Carlos & Brenda Benevides  
Tom & Brittany Bouwman  
Curtis & Lisa Dishman  
Pamela Espinoza  
Michael & Cara Fronz  
Jane and David Hernandez  
Taylor & Stephanie Lubianski  
Christopher & Mindy Pantuso  
Alban & Linda Pelletier  
Romero & Ariel Perez  
Carlos & Patricia Saavedra  
Carlos & Dariela Salazar  
Wesley & Valerie Trevino



*Congratulations to  
Judy and Gedrald Gaenslen  
Recipients of the 2023  
Lumen Gentium Award*

Thank you for leading God's people closer to Him from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga, staff, and parish community of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

# Journeying Together

By Anabel Farrell

Conversion for the Candidates and Catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) desiring to become Catholic begins a lifelong spiritual journey of faith that will transform individual participants in unique and unexpected ways. Jesus' call for us to become disciples and share the "Good News" of the Gospel is as relevant now as when Jesus first started gathering his apostles. When our seekers hear God's call, it is only fitting that we, the church community, respond with open arms and charity to welcome the unbaptized, those already baptized from different faiths, and Catholics seeking confirmation and the Eucharist. When our parish community answers the call to accompany the catechumenate, there is a shared benefit for everyone involved.

St. Mark's is blessed to have so many parishioners willing to interact with the candidates and catechumens seeking to join the Catholic Church. Parishioners also gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of their Catholic faith by witnessing the faith journey of someone wanting to become Catholic. Often sponsors, godparents, and parishioners who observe up close the transformation of the candidates and catechumens comment on how these encounters with our seekers have strengthened their understanding of the beauty and wisdom of Catholic teachings and traditions. The Church, as the Body of Christ, is to help those seeking to know Christ! Each member of his Church comes together to provide knowledge, understanding, and opportunities for spiritual growth. One way to witness the Catholic way of life for others is through our actions and willingness to accompany those experiencing a conversion.



The people of God, as represented by the local church, understand that the initiation of adults and children is the responsibility of all the baptized. As Catholics, we are anointed to be priests, prophets, and kings through our baptism and called to support our seekers on their spiritual journey of faith to make the right choices in their lives and lead them on the right path. Therefore, the community of Saint Mark must always be fully prepared to pursue its apostolic vocation as followers of Jesus to help those searching for Christ. Walking with our catechumenate on their journey of learning and discovery is no better witnessed than by being a sponsor or godparent.

Although the entire community is responsible for sharing its faith and assisting catechumens and candidates on their faith journey, it is impractical for such a large group to minister personally to each of the seekers. That is why the role played by a sponsor or godparent is essential since you represent the church to the catechumen or candidate. Sponsors and godparents act as a spiritual bridge between the seeker and the many people, places, and traditions of the Catholic Church. One of the primary responsibilities of sponsors and godparents is to accompany

your catechumen or candidate in the celebration of the various liturgical rites they must pass through, culminating at the Easter Vigil, where the seekers become fully initiated into the Catholic faith as they willingly surrender their minds, heart, and body to Jesus.

Finally, in the Lenten preparation for the Easter celebration and sacraments of initiation, we begin to understand how important it is for the church community to also grow in their faith and help spread the "Good News" through prayers, hymn, and acclamations according to their God-given gifts. The Church, as the body of Christ, unites in a mutually beneficial relationship to fulfill the calling of our ancestral Fathers of the Catholic Church to fulfill the longings of our rightful inheritance through baptism. Therefore, the time our candidates and catechumens are present during Mass before their dismissal is an opportunity for them to experience firsthand the beauty of our faith and its people. It is a tradition embraced by the universal Church that transcends time.

*Anabel Farrell is a catechist for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.*



# PARISH LENTEN SCHEDULE

## ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2023

MASS | Main Sanctuary 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM (Livestreamed) 12:00 PM,  
6:00 PM & 7:30PM (Bilingual)

**LITURGY OF THE WORD AND  
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES 4:00 | Main Sanctuary**

## ADDITIONAL LENT ACTIVITIES

**WAY OF THE CROSS | Fridays of Lent - Main Sanctuary | 7:00 PM**

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE | 8:15 AM M-F | 6:00 PM Wed**

## DAVID KAUFFMAN CONCERT

Thursday, March 9 | 7:00 PM

Main Sanctuary (A free-will offering will be collected)

Presented by the Yvonne Cosgrove Concert Series

## PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & April 5 | 4:30-5:30 PM

Thursday, March 23 | 10:00 AM

Wednesday, March 29 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM (No Wednesday 6:00 PM Mass)

## PALM SUNDAY | April 1-2 | Regular Mass Schedule

Main Sanctuary (10:00 AM Livestreamed on YouTube Facebook)

## TRIDUUM & EASTER

### HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

April 6 | 6:00 PM | Main Sanctuary

Adoration until 12:00 AM

### GOOD FRIDAY | April 7 | Living Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM

The Lord's 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 & Facebook)

# HORARIO DE ACTIVIDAD DE CUARESMA

## MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA FEBRERO 22, 2023

MISA | Santuario Principal 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM  
(transmisión en vivo) 12:00 PM,  
6:00 PM. y 7:30 PM (bilingüe)

LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA Y REPARTO DE CENIZAS  
4:00 PM | Santuario Principal

## ACTIVIDADES ADICIONALES DE CUARESMA

VÍA CRUSIS | Viernes de Cuaresma -  
Santuario Principal | 7:00 PM

HORARIO DE MISAS DE LUNES A VIERNES  
8:15 AM L-V | 6:00 PM miércoles

CONCIERTO DE DAVID KAUFFMAN  
jueves 9 de marzo | 7:00 PM | Santuario Principal  
(Se recogerá una ofrenda voluntaria)  
Presentado por la Serie de Conciertos Yvonne Cosgrove

RETIRO PARROQUIAL  
lunes 20 de marzo - miércoles 22 de marzo  
Misa 6:00 PM Retiro después de Misa

SERVICIOS DE RECONCILIACIÓN PARROQUIAL  
Miércoles 1, 8, 15, 22 de marzo y 5 de abril | 4:30-5:30 PM  
jueves 23 de marzo | 10:00 A.M  
miércoles, 29 de marzo | 6:00 - 8:00 PM (No habrá Misa a las 6:00 p. m.)

DOMINGO DE RAMOS | 1-2 DE ABRIL | Horario regular de  
Misas (10:00 AM Transmisión en vivo en YouTube y Facebook)

## TRIDUO PASCUAL

JUEVES SANTO MISA DE LA CENA DEL SEÑOR  
6 de abril | 6:00 PM | Santuario Principal  
Adoración hasta las 12:00 AM

VIERNES SANTO | 7 de abril  
Vía Crucis en vivo 3:00 PM  
La Pasión del Señor, Veneración de la Cruz,  
y Servicio de Comunión 6:00 PM

MISA DE VIGILIA PASCUAL | 8 de abril | 8:30 PM

**DOMINGO DE PASCUA** | 9 de abril  
Horario regular de Misas  
Santuario Principal (10:00 AM Transmisión en vivo  
en YouTube y Facebook)

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## The Winged Lion Publication Policy

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church reserves the right to publish article submissions and edit all submissions for form and content.

### Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00am, 10:00 am,(liverstreamed) 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

### Adoration

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

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

Mark 16:15



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



St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The  
**WINGED LION**



Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

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