

The WINGED LION

AUGUST 2023

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*Our Mission
is to spread the
Good News
of Jesus Christ
to all God's
people by
word and action.*

A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga



*“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build.
Unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch.”*

Psalm 127:1

It's hard to believe that a year has passed by since I was assigned to be the pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist. I have felt welcomed from the moment I arrived, and I am very happy and feel so blessed to be assigned here! I have to thank Msgr. Kevin Ryan for assisting with a smooth transition and am so impressed by what he, through his leadership, established at our parish. It has been a privilege to open back up some ministries that were affected by the precautions taken with the pandemic. It has been a joy to have new and returning Altar Servers assist us with our liturgies. The A.C.T.S. Core was reestablished and they wasted no time in scheduling no less than eight A.C.T.S. retreats that will take place this year! Retreats include Men and Women's English and Spanish Retreats, Men and Women Recovery Retreats, and our Teen Retreat. The fellowship and community building that the preparation and experience at these retreats brings to our parish is immeasurable.

We also reestablished a Pastoral Council with eight members. These first members were appointed, but beginning next Spring, we will have elections for four new members and continue having elections going forward. Each member will serve a three-year term. The Pastoral Council just recently completed new bylaws and has been in the process of discerning the needs and opportunities for growth for our parish. One of these needs stood out: the need for Young Adult Ministry. I am in the process of meeting with some young adult leaders in formulating a new ministry that will begin sometime in the Fall. We know that the development and maintenance of faith is critical for those in their 20's and 30's, and we hope this new ministry will enrich the spiritual lives of those in this age bracket.

Upon making tweaks and some new hires for our Pastoral Staff this first year, my second year at St. Mark's will also focus on reviewing our physical plant. We began this summer by having repairs and a special seal placed on Buildings 1 and 2. We will be doing an inventory of all of the buildings to see what maintenance and renovations are needed for the 14 buildings we have on our 22-acre campus! Our parish finances are stable, and we appreciate your generous support of our parish. Our parish debt, from the West Campus purchase, is now \$804,359.92 and God willing be paid off on February of 2028.

Overall, we are blessed with many important and generous ministries at our parish that are helping to spread the Word of God and offer service to many in need. May the Lord continue to bless the “house” and “community” we are building at St. Mark's for years to come.

Father Dennis



Thank you from the Women's Guild

By Barbara James

The St. Mark Women's Guild would like to thank the St. Mark congregation and community for supporting all the Women's Guild committee events this past year. As we all became increasingly active it was apparent that we all needed to be together and share in the different ministries again. Fist pumps and waves have turned into hugs and it is great to see smiles again.

If you have wondered about joining the Women's Guild this would be a great year to come to a meeting and see what we are all about. All women 18+ years are encouraged to join wherever you feel your talents could be put to good use or just to share in sisterhood. The Women's Guild began at St. Mark in 1976. It was originally called The Altar Society. We have three committees taking care of the Altar - Sanctuary, Altar/Art & Environment and Sewing. Women have taken care of these areas for probably as long as can be recorded. We support the youth of St. Mark with the five annual Scholarships we award to five graduating High School Students. The Women's Guild is also involved with fund raising. The



Spring Luncheon/Fashion Show/Auction came back this year after a long 4-year absence. All proceeds from our Bake Sales, Book Sale, Craft Fair, Trash & Treasure Sales and Spring Luncheon/Auction go right back into the St. Mark Parish and Community. If your heart is saying where would I fit in, come and check us out. Lunch Bunch meets at a different restaurant monthly too! There is a place for everyone. Watch for our Membership Drive starting in the middle of August.

This past year we chose the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Patroness Saint. We celebrated the Blessed Mother under one of Her many titles at each monthly general meeting. We also closed our monthly meetings with a decade of the Rosary. Participating in the Rosary lets us share our faith with each other. Come pray the Rosary with us on

the 3rd Saturday each month before the 5pm Mass.

The photo is of the new Executive Board taken at the Installation Ceremony on June 8th- Barbara James- President, Mary Louise Johnson- Vice President, Theresa Mulcahy- Treasurer, Jan Williams- Corresponding Secretary, Cleo Casias- Parliamentarian and Linda Zaiontz- Historian. (Virginia Huber- Recording Secretary, not pictured.) We celebrated the year-end with a Luau Theme Potluck. It was a fun evening to thank everyone for wonderful year. We are very grateful for the friendships, generosity and faithfulness of our ministry. Please contact any Executive Board Officer for more information.

Watch for announcements of all the Women's Guild Activities in the weekly Bulletin. You do not need to be a member to come to all the fundraisings events. All women over the age of 18 are welcome to attend our Annual Retreat too! We are looking forward to another wonderful year thanks to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Community.

Barbara James is President of the St. Mark Women's Guild



ST. MARK MOMS GROUP

MOMS Group is a caring and compassionate group of mothers who meet to discuss the joys and challenges of motherhood, exchange parenting insights, and, most importantly, pray for and with one another. Topics may include personal spirituality, family, marriage, the Catholic faith, as well as book and/or bible studies.

Interested in participating in or leading a Mom's Group? Reach out to Rita Cabello (210) 494-1606 Ext. 320

ST. MARK'S QUILTERS

ST MARK'S QUILTERS WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO JOIN THEM ON ANY FRIDAY FROM 9 AM TO AROUND 3PM AT CHRISTOPHER HALL, ROOMS 201 AND 202. BRING YOUR OWN SEWING MACHINE AND WORK ON A CHILD OR BABY QUILT, OR ANY UNFINISHED PROJECT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ON A TOP SHELF! SEVERAL QUILTERS ALSO HAND QUILT OR WORK ON BINDINGS.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL PAT BROOKES AT 210-416-3933 OR WANDA HOPSON AT 210-844-6333

Faith Formation Registration

By Megan Byers

Saint Mark Young Church is now accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 Faith Formation year! The online registration form can be used for children in grades K-5 as well as those in middle school (Edge) and high school (Life Teen). For those wanting to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please review the requirements on the youth website: www.stmarkym.com/overview

Use the QR Code to register!



We are also looking for members of our community to serve the youth more consistently through Core Team or one of the Support Teams.

- Core Team specializes in relational ministry with our youth during weekly sessions by leading small groups, occasionally giving talks, and

leading the teens in prayer.

- Support Team is made up of two branches: Meals and Fundraising
- Meal Team helps provide dinner Sunday evenings, either by cooking or donating food items.
- Fundraising Team will offer support while planning for and during our fundraising activities throughout the year.

If joining Core or a Support Team is something you are interested in, please contact the Youth Office. Even if you are unable to volunteer your time as a Core Member, your prayers are necessary for the success of this ministry. Thank you in advance for all who will respond to this invitation to serve and pray for the youth of St. Mark!

St. Mark Youth Office, in collaboration with Children's Ministry and RCIA is offering a Catechist Workshop on Saturday, August 26th from 9am-11am in the Gym. For those who are serving as a Core Member for Edge, Life Teen, or Confirmation, our training will transition to New Legacy from 10:30am-12pm to continue training.

For all parents and guardians of youth that will be participating in

Edge, Life Teen, or Confirmation Prep for the 2023-2024 formation year, we will host a Parent Meeting in New Legacy on Sunday, August 27th 3:00-4:30 pm. This event is also open to parents who are contemplating signing their children up for one of our programs and need more information.

Here are some details about the first two sessions of Life Teen and Edge:

- Family Night - Sunday, September 10th, 2023 6:00-8:00pm - St. Mark Gym. Parents and siblings are invited to attend; dinner will be provided.
- Messy Games - Sunday, September 17th 6:00-8:00 pm

All youth in middle and high school are invited! Please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy and bring a friend; dinner will be provided.

For those preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, the first class is Sunday, October 1st from 3:00-4:30 pm in New Legacy.

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

All are Welcome

By Kay Parker & Barbara Thabet

Did you know St. Mark the Evangelist parish community has a faith formation program for individuals who have learning and behavioral needs not well suited for traditional classroom instruction?

Since September, 2002, we have opened our hearts and hands to students with special needs during the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass, offering faith formation according to the student's unique learning style. We meet every Sunday during the school year and there are no age limits to those who want to come.

We have two classrooms, arranged according to student's needs and abilities. Faith formation instruction is concrete, hands-on, with a structured routine each session and materials suited to each learner.

Sacramental preparation is offered for those students and their families who desire it.

We encourage you to "come and see" our classes, located in the Community Center: downstairs in the gym to the left of the stage and upstairs in Charism. We are always in need of people who want to help as "companions" to our students. Most especially, if you know of a

family who could benefit from our special needs faith formation program, please have them contact Rita Cabello at rcabello@stmarkevangelist.com

Kay Parker & Barbara Thabet co-lead the Special Needs Faith Formation Program at St. Mark the Evangelist.



SMCP News

By Melanie Rutkoski

Looking to the 2023-2024 St. Mark Catholic Preschool Calendar, there are many things that elicit joy and excitement! On August 14th, the entire Staff Family will be on campus to make ready for the first event of the year which is Meet the Teachers on August 22nd followed by the First Day of School on August 24th! Our hearts are filled with joy and excitement knowing that we are only days away from welcoming our friends, old and new, to this 44th preschool year! We are confident that the Lord has great things in store

for us all.

St. Mark Catholic Preschool serves children who are 18 months to 4 years old, as of September 1st. Enrollment continues, so give us a call (210) 494-9282. It is LION-UP to be another amazing and blessed year!

Melanie Rutkoski is the Director of St. Mark Catholic Preschool



What is Natural Family Planning?

By Shelley Davis & Cathy Nix

Natural Family Planning is a married couple's virtuous application of Fertility Awareness to postpone or achieve a pregnancy. That means that the couple have learned the woman's signs of fertility and infertility and make daily observations to know during a cycle when a pregnancy is possible and likely. Virtuous application means that they don't use this knowledge with a selfish mentality to be closed off to pregnancy or solely to achieve a pregnancy, but that they are open to God's will in their marriage, and with love, discern together what is best for the couple and family at a given time.

Couples who chose NFP experience a wide range of benefits that go far beyond physical and health related advantages. NFP is definitely safe, healthy and green. Safe: it's 100% natural, no harmful chemicals, hormones or devices. Healthy: it not only respects your natural cycle, it informs you of your fertility – it is a window into your own health – so it can alert you of some health issues that need attention. Green and

economical: there is no continual purchase of medications or devices, no negative influence on your body or the environment. Modern methods of NFP are as or more effective than all contraception and also incredibly helpful for couples trying to achieve pregnancy because it enables a couple to pinpoint the most fertile time of the cycle. NFP builds joyful marriages by helping couples connect on a deeper level; it provides a path to communicate about physical and emotional experiences of the spouses and to grow in respect for each other. There are so many benefits to NFP because it is God's plan for marriage and family planning. God is the author of all good and He wants your marriage to be healthy and joyful. NFP does not violate the marriage covenant and the marriage act by separating life and love as does contraception, sterilization and IVF.

There are a variety of NFP methods and ways to learn. Fertility Science Institute helps you find the best family planning method for you based on your situation and goals. (fertilityscienceinstitute.org)

The Couple to Couple League, a

St. Mark Catholic Preschool is Hiring



Lead, Assistant and Substitute Teachers

Ratio: 2 teachers with no more than 14 students each day
Work Day: 8:30am to 2:15pm Monday-Friday
Calendar: Traditional Preschool: August-May with the same holidays as NEISD
Job Descriptions: www.archdiocese.org/employment
Experience: Previous teaching experience preferred.
Contact: Melanie Rutkoski, Director (210) 494-9282

Come join the SMCP Family!



Catholic organization and largest national provider of NFP, offers: live, onsite classes, live, online classes and also self-paced online classes. The professionally trained husband and wife teachers teach for free as an apostolate because they know how important this is for marriage. This keeps the course as affordable as possible. There is even a mobile app to help with tracking signs of fertility. There are teaching couples in our Archdiocese that teach in English and Spanish. For more information visit: ccli.org or contact Shelley Davis 830-285-8864, nealandshelley@gmail.com

Shelley Davis & Cathy Nix are Certified Local NFP Instructors. Cathy and her husband, John, lead the NFP Ministry at St. Mark the Evangelist

Which Sacrament is the Most Important?

By Zachary Ohlenforst

Every Sacrament is extremely important in different ways, and I don't think that a person can live their best life without most, if not all, of the Sacraments. But the Sacrament that matters the most to me is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reconciliation is a way for a person to be washed of their sins and to live a new life from that point onward. It is a great gift from God that allows a person to not be afraid to make mistakes or to mess up and do wrong, as He is always there to pick them up and guide them forward.

To me, Reconciliation is a Sacrament of comfort that says that God is always willing to look past the sins of a person and see their heart's truest desires, and that is how he defines who a person is. For example, a person who has done wrong their entire life can enter broken and weak and

hopeless and leave joyful and hopeful and renewed, as God saw their heart rather than their failures. It illustrates how God has the final say, even when we deserve to be punished terribly for our wrongdoing.

Reconciliation allows me to see how God's love is everlasting and never leaves me, not even when I have done wrong over and over again. And one of the great parts about Reconciliation is that it isn't just a one-time Sacrament like Baptism or Confirmation; a person can receive forgiveness throughout their entire life through Reconciliation. Additionally, Reconciliation displays the fullness of God's forgiveness and the forgiveness that Jesus had with every person he met, and teaches us how to forgive others in the same way.

The forgiveness and love of God lives in a person even after they receive the Sacrament of Reconcili-

ation, and they can now take it into their personal lives and share it with everyone they love. And all of this is from God, who always wants the greatest things for his children.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is comforting to me, as no matter what I do wrong, God is always willing to pick me back up and help me live a life full of love, joy, and forgiveness.

Zachary Ohlenforst is one of our parish youth and a recipient of the 2023 Knights of Columbus Scholarship



Lions and Giraffes and Rhinos, Oh my!

By Sarah Tarrillion

June was a busy month at St. Mark the Evangelist for Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, many staff members and volunteers as we prepared for and welcomed over 125 children at Vacation Bible School this year.

The children learned about God's goodness throughout the ups and downs of life through a safari theme, story-telling, crafts, music and dance, games, and even snacks!



We captured many wonderful photos and videos throughout VBS and we invite you to check them out on our Facebook page.

We continue to pray in a special way for the children and families who participated in VBS 2023.

Sarah Tarrillion is the Development Assistant at St. Mark the Evangelist

Transferring Retirement Assets to St. Mark

By Mary Anne Votion

To make a tax-exempt mandatory distribution from your retirement account to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, you'll need to follow the specific guidelines and requirements set by the financial institution overseeing the distribution. Here's a general outline of the steps you take.

1. Understand the requirements for making a mandatory distribution from your financial institution. They will provide you with documents to be completed prior to distribution and help you select the distribution method.
2. Determine the distribution amount you are required to take. This could be a fixed amount or a percentage of your retirement assets. The distribution can be made as a direct deposit, paper check, or stock

distribution. And, can be designated for any ministry at St. Mark.

3. Notify the bookkeeper, Rich Mazarra of your method of distribution.
4. Your financial institution will send a confirmation to you regarding completion of your distribution. Remember, these steps are general guidelines and it is crucial to consult with your financial institution to ensure you comply their specific requirements and process.

This article is information and educational in nature. It is not offering professional tax, legal, or accounting advice. For specific advice about the effect of any planning concept on your tax or financial situation or with your estate, please consult a qualified professional advisor.

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

Join us for Bible Study

Join us for Tuesday Bible Study! This fall, we will study Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant, presented by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins. Classes will begin September 12, 2023, and run for 8 weeks. Morning and Evening classes will be offered. Registration will take place in the Narthex after all Masses the weekend of August 5-6.

For more information on either session, please contact Ann Swihart at (281) 615-9598.

Join us for Tuesday Bible Study! Our spring study selection is Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother, presented by Edward Sri. Classes will begin January 9, 2024, and run for 8 weeks. Morning and Evening classes will be offered. Registration will take place in the Narthex after all Masses the weekend of August 5-6.

For more information on either session, please contact Ann Swihart at (281) 615-9598.

*Welcome to our
New Members:*

*Justin & Chiyon Adkins
Rosalinda Barrera
Grant & Kailey Boren
Mac & Caitlin Carrillo
Erica Diaz
Juan Diaz
Donald Dupaul
Fernando & Maria Ofelia Escarcega
Diana Figueroa
Kristen Hernandez
Christopher & Joyce Hobbins
Christopher & Wendy Legler
Sarah Linck
Pedro & Vanessa Lora
Jose & Cynthia Martinez
Ana McChesney
Lisa Morgen
Patrick & Maribeth Peller
Araceli Pena
Paul & Carla Perrio
Diego & Karina Ramirez
Anna Reyes
Madrid & Agnes Rivera
Mirian Soto
James Velez
Adam & Abbey Villarreal
Beverly Wideman*

Join our Thursday night Bible Study - Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, presented by Edward Sri. This study will begin in September on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30pm. It consists of 8 sessions and the start date is determined. The cost of the study is \$25.00 and will include online access.

For more information contact Don Cosgrove at 210-710-0722 or cosgrove-don@msn.com

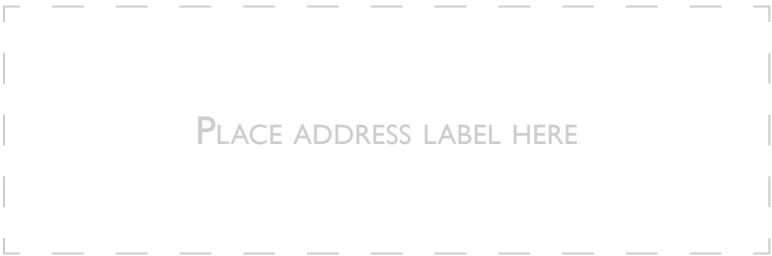


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The Winged Lion Publication Policy

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



St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

AUGUST 2023

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

Mass Schedule

- Saturday** 9:30 am First Saturday Only
- Sunday** 5:00 pm Vigil
- 8:00am,
- 10:00 am, (Livestreamed)
- 12 Noon
- 2:00 pm (Spanish)
- 5:00 pm
- Monday** 8:15 am
- Tuesday** 8:15 am
- Wednesday** 8:15 am,
- Thursday** 6:00 pm (Day Chapel)
- 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 5:00 - 5:50 pm

Adoration

- Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am-8:45pm

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



www.stmarkevangelist.com | 210.494.1606

