

# The WINGED LION

APRIL 2021

## A MESSAGE from Msgr. Kevin Ryan

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*“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

*Romans 6:8-11*



My dear people,

Easter is upon us. It is the season of hopefulness. What was removed from your heart during Lent so you could participate fully in the Resurrection? What did Jesus cultivate new in your heart for the Spring so you can be closer to Him?

Just a few days after Jesus died, was buried, and risen from the dead he encountered his dear friend, Mary Magdalene, her broken heart evidenced by her tears. He feels her profound grief and asks the obvious question, “Why are you weeping?” Jesus then follows up with a question that invites multiple layers of response. “Whom are you looking for?” Have we not experienced that this last year; the grief, the longing for each other, the losses we have all experienced on so many levels, looking for something we cannot touch? The question also begs this one, “What are you yearning for?” Lent gives us the opportunity to sort out what doesn’t belong in our heart and answer this last question. What did Jesus cultivate in your heart for the Spring?

In April’s issue of The Winged Lion, we read about the hope of our R.C.I.A. participants who will be fully received into the church at the Easter Vigil, hope of changed hearts with the coming of Spring, and find the opportunity of finding salvation through the first of many courses coming back to St. Mark.

I challenge you during the Easter season, to spend a few minutes during your prayer time each day reading the Gospel as part of your meditation and turn towards the hopefulness of the resurrection of Christ.

Peace to you and your family,

*Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan*

# RCIA In The Time Of Lent

By Anne Kemper

The Rite of Christian Initiation of adults including the R.C.I.A. Rites adapted for children celebrates the season of Lent as time for purification and enlightenment, a formal name for retreat time! the Forty Days of Lent are the proximate preparation for the celebration of the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist during the Vigil of Easter, Holy Saturday evening.

These forty days are filled with special rites: The Rite of Sending by the parish of those Catechumens and Candidates ready to come into the fullness of membership in the church. It includes the signing of the book of the elect by the catechumens. This rite leads directly into The Rite of Election highlighted by the signature of the Archbishop or Bishop testifying that the Catechumens (unbaptized people) are now ready to be received into the Church. The Candidates (previously baptized people) are recognized as ready for full initiation and encouraged and prayed for during the accompanying Rite of Continuing Conversion celebrated with the bishop.

On the second Sunday of lent there is a Penitential Rite for all the candidates during a mass. Then on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent come the Scrutinies. These very special, required Rites for the unbaptized are intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences

and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior.

The Scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. the Scrutinies are meant to uncover and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. the Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation and to give them strength in Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. (RCIA 141)

These are ancient rites, and they may at first seem strange to us, but they are profoundly rooted in our human experience. Even if these rites are not celebrated at the liturgy we attend, it can be a wonderful way to reflect on our own journey as we accompany our elect on the journey they are making during lent. It can be an inspiration and source of renewal for us on our own journey of faith.

We need to examine (scrutinize) how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin—in what

we do and what we fail to do. We really need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the most powerful moments of the Scrutinies is how they begin. After the homily, the Elect are invited to come forward with their sponsors and to kneel down. Then, the whole assembly is invited to pray for them in silence. It is a very solemn moment. Our community has cared for these elects for some months now on their journey. We have sent them to reflect more and more deeply on the Word of God, and expressed to them our longing for the day on which they would join us at the table of the Lord. Now we pray for them in this sacred silence, deeply asking God to protect them and heal them in the weeks ahead.

Intercessions for the Elect, the prayer of exorcism, and then the laying on of hands follow—a solemn act reminiscent of the rite used for Ordination in the Sacrament of Holy Orders calling down the Spirit of Jesus to be with these elect and protect them.

Then the elect are dismissed—sent forth to reflect upon the word and this powerful gesture of love on the part of the community that cares for them so deeply with the love of Christ.

*Anne Kemper is the RCIA/Catechumenate for Children, Spiritual Direction and Quinceañeras Coordinator at St. Mark the Evangelist.*



## OPEN ENROLLMENT

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**THE THREE THINGS NECESSARY FOR ONE'S SALVATION****SALVATION**

***In the 13th century, St. Thomas Aquinas believed that there were three responses available to all people to ensure their salvation.***

Join the St. Mark the Evangelist Adult Faith Formation Team of Carmen Frankel and Paul Vance, D. Min. via Zoom for a Three-Part Series on:

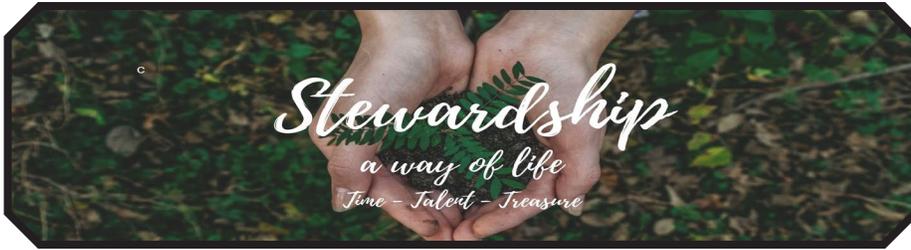
***The Three Things Necessary for One's Salvation  
Monday Evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm April 5 – May 24***

**Class Schedule:**

- 1. To Know What We Ought to Believe – Having Faith in Jesus**
  - a. April 5 – Essential Definitions Relating to the Walk with Christ
  - b. April 12 – Positive and Negative Inheritance: Adam and Jesus Christ
  - c. April 19 – Guidelines for your Faith in the Object of your Faith
- 2. To Know What We Ought to Desire – Desiring Life in the Spirit**
  - a. April 26 – Temptation and Deception: Self-Pride and Pride of Life
  - b. May 3 – Responding to your Emotions
  - c. May 10 – Committed to Transformation
- 3. To Know What We Ought to Do – Putting on the Mind of Christ**
  - a. May 17 – Who stands to Gain from your Inheritance in Christ
  - b. May 24 – You and the Christian Community

**This is a free virtual event, but registration is required,  
Call Rita Cabello at  
210-496-1606 ext. 320 or rcabello@stmarkevangelist.com**

***Carmen Frankel is a lay Catholic evangelist. She has produced numerous seminars in the Archdiocese of San Antonio including The Healing of the Family Tree and Life in the Spirit and is a Service Committee Member of the Charismatic Movement in San Antonio. Paul Vance is the Director of Faith Formation at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church. He received his Doctorate in Ministry from Oblate School of Theology where he serves as an adjunct instructor.***



By Tracy E. Welliver

It would appear that many in the modern world think very little of human nature. If we are to believe print, television, and online media, apparently, we are unable to control our lust for people, power and money and, if given a choice, we will choose incorrectly most of the time. Worse than that assessment, because this is seen as truth, those choices actually are no longer that bad. How can something be bad if everyone is doing it? Come to think of it, this argument is not just from the media world; I hear it from my own children from time to time. Honestly, as my children get older and their arguments wiser, I find myself wondering if certain things really are not as I once saw them.

But then I remember who I am as a baptized person: a new creation in Jesus Christ. The reality is the world

is right: I can't control my lust for things and, yes, many times if given the chance I will choose incorrectly. But this is without Jesus. With Jesus, I have been transformed and given the power to resist temptation and follow a narrow, but better, way. To be a good steward, a mature disciple, and relevant Christian, we must have Jesus. My children and I sometimes fail to see that those who seek to reduce human actions to simple animalistic responses to a stimulus also reduce the dignity of the human person. We are so much more than that. Through His cross and resurrection, Jesus redeemed all of creation. And for those who seek to join His body here on earth, these words of Paul are for us: "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."

*Taken from Everyday Stewardship  
by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

## A Thank you Note From Sam Szalwinski



For several months I have been planning to write a note of thanks to so many parishioners who have

been storming the HEAVENS with prayers for me. First was the very enjoyable "parade of about 30 cars" that drove by our house on my 90th birthday!

AFTER THAT ENJOYABLE EVENT, WE HAD TO GET SERIOUS. For several years I have had a history of poor blood circulation in my legs. This led to recent hospitalization during which time, consideration was being given by my vascular surgeon to amputate my right leg above the knee. After much praying by many people and consultation with all family members, including our son who is an MD, the decision was made not to amputate.

When my vascular surgeon was informed, he agreed, stating that considering all aspects, it was a rea-



**A warm welcome to  
our new members**

**Samuel & Monica Engler**

**Steven & Melisa Gavre**

**Henry Uriegas &  
Stefania Bauta**

sonable decision. After more deliberation I opted for palliative care. My wife and I chose Christus Santa Rosa as the agent to provide this care.

My wife is a saint, taking care of me during all of this turmoil. I have a fabulous supporting family. I believe that my Guardian Angel had to be relieved by another because he had grown weary and is now recuperating.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO  
STORM HEAVEN WITH YOUR  
PRAYERS FOR ME AND FOR  
MY WIFE.**

*Sam Szalwinski is a long time member of St. Mark the Evangelist as well as a very important member of the Knights of Columbus Council #7813*

# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

By Steve Marques

In spite of the COVID 19 pandemic, the St Mark Women's Guild and the Knights of Columbus continued the tradition of awarding \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors heading for studies in a certified college/university, junior college, or vocational school in the Fall of 2021.

The selection process uses twenty evaluators, ten from each of the two organizations. The students are evaluated on speaking ability by a six-member team and on writing ability by six evaluators. Students are also evaluated on their school activities, and community activities, such as scouts or part-time employment. While some points are allocated for academic performance, the greatest emphasis is placed on church activities.

Applicants had their choice from two essay topics:

1. How have the pandemic restrictions affected your faith life?
2. What do you believe is the most



critical challenge facing our President and why?

Keep an eye on future St Mark church bulletins for publication of the essays.

In addition to various academic recognitions, our recipients kept busy with many activities. Some of these are: Traveling Loaves and

Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, A.C.T.S., Altar Servers, Life Teen, Eucharistic Ministers, Eagle Scouts, Food Bank, Choir, Band, Orchestra, Mariachi and others. Not to be omitted are various sports, to include Captains of Volleyball, Soccer, and Cross Country/Track Teams.

This year's Women's Guild recipients are: Catherine Buley, Andrea Blackburn, Sophia Frederick, Annalyn Harrington, and Kaitlyn Holzmann.

The Knights of Columbus recipients are: Garrison Mangan, Kyle Patton, Matthew Tobar, and Nicholas Wilson.

Once again, our youth have demonstrated why we are so proud of all the youth of our parish.

*Deacon Steve Marques is the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee Lead at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

# Teen Camp Experience

By Catherine Buley

Last summer I attended Wild Sky, the Covecrest of Texas. Here, I encountered Christ in a multitude of ways; scripture, discussion with my parish group, team activities, talks of the faith, and the sacraments. The best part of this Life Teen Summer Camp, in my opinion, was the community I got to know. Going into this week-long, overnight retreat, I knew two people really well of the four. I left knowing each of their hearts deeper than ever before. If the fear of not knowing anyone is keeping you from this retreat, surrender it to God, and sign up immediately. You could meet your best friends here. On this retreat, there will be the breaking

down of walls, an increase in trust in the Lord, and a major growth of faith and love. But that's only if you allow it. You have to be willing to open your heart for Him to work on. Surrender your fears, doubts, and anxieties to the cross and you will

not regret it. I encourage you to sign up, if you are able, and take a leap of faith. You may be surprised at what the Lord has in store.

*Catherine Buley is a Teen Leader in Life Teen at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

**Youth Summer Camps**

**CAMP COVECREST**  
for High School Students

**CAMP HIDDEN LAKE**  
for Middle School Students

**DATES: AUGUST 2-7, 2021**

IF YOUR TEEN IS INTERESTED IN CAMP THIS SUMMER, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE YOUTH OFFICE @ 210-494-1959.

# Response to Scholarship Essay Advertised on the November 2020 Newsletter

By Matt Troy

I feel it my spiritual duty to reply to the article that was published "Should socialism be adopted for the United States."

It was commented that "It would be in the best interest to adopt some aspects of socialism to protect the unborn and the dying." That sounds wonderful but nothing could be further from the truth. Those supporting socialism are loudly and proudly supporting a women's right to choose abortions for their unborn babies.

Then it was said "Socialism unites us as one team, rooting for the success and respecting the worth of each life.. (As long as that life has never seen the light of day.)"

Years ago I took a cruise to Venezuela which was once a thriving nation before turning socialist.

Before leaving the ship we were warned "Do not go anywhere by yourself." I witnessed tent cities going up the sides of hills. They cut into the electrical poles and ran home made wiring to their tents. The government would go by and cut the cords.

Now it has gotten worse. American students are waking up to socialism's nightmare. Students learn: Venezuelan men lose 24 lbs. in a year. The poverty rate is 60%. Children eat from garbage. Families cook their dogs. Doctors operate by flashlight during frequent electrical blackouts. And if you complain... you might disappear or be shot by government-sponsored street gangs called "Collectivos."

My Nephew told me "Uncle Matt we are the United States of America that would never happen here." Watch!

Covid has taught us all how each of us depends on others. The bar

owners are now not buying houses or cars. When they tax the wealthy more and more, they take their companies out of the US and leave millions unemployed. Our economy and country would collapse.

The United States was founded on the belief that we are all created equal by God and endowed by the Creator with our rights. The U.S. motto is "In God we trust."

Belief in God and the principles derived from that belief are the fundamental reasons why the United States can enjoy freedom, democracy, and prosperity and why the United States has become the nation it is today.

We as Americans take care of our own. Pray for our Country!!

*Matt Troy has been a member at St. Mark the Evangelist since 1978.*

*Triduum & Easter*  
*Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper*  
**April 1 | 7:00 PM | Main Sanctuary**  
**(Livestreamed YouTube & Facebook)**

*Good Friday*  
**April 2 | Living Stations of the Cross**  
**3:00 PM (Pre-recorded YouTube)**  
**The Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service 6:00 PM**  
**Main Sanctuary (Livestreamed)**

*Easter Vigil Mass*  
**April 3 | Private**  
**(Livestreamed Facebook & YouTube)**

*Easter Sunday*  
**April 4 | Regular Mass Schedule**  
**Main Sanctuary (10:00 AM |**  
**livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook**  
**8:00 & 10:30 AM | Event Center**

## Farewell to Roy Perry



Roy Perry a long-time faithful parishioner at St. Mark the Evangelist as well as our Landscaper for 14 years has retired.

Roy has been a member at St. Mark the Evangelist since 2003. He went through the RCIA program here and received his Sacraments in 2004. Roy was a very active member of our RCIA Ministry for many years. We will sure miss seeing Roy everyday keeping our grounds beautiful but we will continue to see him at Mass.

The St. Mark the Evangelist community wishes Roy all the best in his retirement and many blessings to come. We will miss you Roy!

# SPRING TIME

By Megan Byers

## What is your favorite season?

I always thought I was a fall gal. Oversized sweaters, hot cocoa, pumpkins, the crisp, cool air, colorful leaves. With the major holidays just around the corner, there is this sense of returning home, comfort, leisure that hangs in the air. Not only did I prefer the season, I wanted people to associate me with autumn, with the colors, the smells, the feeling.

Never spring. Ugh, allergies, rain, pastels, and rabbits. No thanks! I didn't like the images that came to mind when I thought of spring. Pollen, the blanket of green covering cars. Plastic eggs and food dye, putting up a pretense for my younger brother into my twenties. Rain, so much rain, itchy eyes, and tissues galore...

That is until someone told me my personality reflects springtime. It was said in the form of an affirmation, so I tried not to be insulted. ME? I remind people of springtime?? I pondered this affirmation for a while...

It wasn't until I experienced a drawn-out, cold, grey winter that I understood how reminding someone of springtime could be a compliment. Springtime: finally seeing the sun, budding plants, warmth, new life.

Now I look forward to spring. I actively search for the signs of the coming season.

In early February, I started noticing green budding on the tree in my front yard. I eagerly mentioned it to my parents and they said not to get too excited, there would be another

freeze. Not even two weeks later snow covered the ground, power outages overtook the city, and all of the progress the trees made was destroyed.

This winter wasn't like anything I had experienced, not even the long, gray one I endured in the North Georgia Mountains two years ago. It teased us with signs of spring, but it didn't last. New life was halted and ice crept over the ground. Texans suffered and some died upon en-



countering situations people in the North face daily during winter.

I've never seen people more ready to shake off the harsh realities of winter. I've never seen people so ready for springtime, but not the "springtime" of my childhood plagued with sneezing and the easter bunny. The true springtime that brings about new life, Easter.

I think it is fitting that Lent aligns with the end of winter. There is a barrenness in both the natural and liturgical seasons that aids the fruitfulness of what is to come. This past season of winter brought death, took away access to heat and water, and had us relying on survival instincts. The season of Lent calls us to die to ourselves, to deny ourselves of

certain comforts, to be led into the wilderness.

No matter what you think about winter or snow, the snow wasn't punishment. It's actually beneficial for the vegetation, a natural fertilizer for the Earth as it melts and deposits the minerals it collected in the air. It was certainly inconvenient and caused some to suffer, but it will yield to a beautiful spring. The same goes for Lent. Most people dread the season and long for it to end, but the point of Lent isn't to sacrifice and fast to be miserable. The point is to sacrifice and fast and make space for the Lord to bring about new life in our hearts. It's beneficial in our journey to Heaven.

If I still thought spring was merely pastel colors and seasonal allergies, I would not be as delighted as I am that spring is here. What good will embracing that ideal of spring bring when I desire to be transformed and brought to life by Jesus? Absolutely none.

Just like I look for the signs of spring around me as winter ends, I look for the signs of springtime in me as I enter the Easter season. I look for the graces I have received from fasting: how Jesus has become who I run to when I'm tired or hungry or lonely, instead of the things I gave up.

I hope you can embrace the Easter season this year, even if you were eager to shake off the 40 days of Lent along with the snow. Allow yourself time to look for the signs of springtime within you. How has the Lord cultivated new life in your heart?

*Megan Byers is one of the Young Adults at St. Mark the Evangelist.*



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He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature..."  
Mark 16:15  
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*Our mission:*  
TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS  
OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL GOD'S  
PEOPLE BY WORD AND ACTION.



**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday 5pm  
Sunday 7:30am, 10am, 2pm  
(Spanish) & 5pm  
Monday 8:15am  
Tuesday 8:15 am  
Wednesday 8:15am  
Thursday 8:15am  
Friday 8:15am

**Holy Days**  
8:15am & 7pm

**Eve of Holy Day**  
7pm

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 3:30-5pm

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

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

APRIL 2021

