

The WINGED LION

SEPTEMBER 2023

A Reflection from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Journeying Together, Young and Old

02 Annual Report

06 Youth Summer Events

07 Pastoral Council



Many people know that church attendance has been on the decline in the United States. It used to be that over 50% of Catholics would attend Mass every Sunday. Now that number is closer to 25%. Among those who are younger adults, an age cohort, that would include 25 to 39-year-olds, the levels are even lower! Those who study demographics and follow church trends stress the importance of reaching out to this important age group. If we do not, the future of our church will unfortunately be much less promising and vibrant than in the past.

One of the leading themes young adults are searching for is authenticity. They desire to see faith lived out in a consistent manner. Another reality important to young adults is connecting their faith with social outreach toward the needy. Because social media has ironically made young adults more isolated from one another, studies show that young adults are missing a sense of community with one another.

With these statistics and realities in mind, our parish is embarking on a new ministry for young adults. We have handpicked a few young adult leaders to help form this ministry and we are seeking input of all young adults to see what kind of programming, fellowship and gatherings they would like to have. Our first gathering was attending Mass and dinner together at EZ's on a Wednesday night in August and we are saving the date for our next gathering on September 13th.

Our parish councils and organizations are often made up of those that are older adults. It was with conscious deliberation that I added a younger adult, Michael Bossaller, to our Pastoral Council to share his perspective with our parish leadership. If you are involved in leadership in any ministry or organization, I encourage you to invite younger adults into your ministry. They have incredible gifts to offer and are often looking for opportunities to serve.

Another challenge is for each of us to invite those young adults we know, whether they are family members, co-workers or friends, to our parish and the activities we sponsor. Let us pray that our young adults will treasure the beautiful gifts our church has to offer, and that we may be open to the gifts that they offer us.

Fr. Dennis

JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, TO YOU WE TURN IN HUMBLE PRAYER. LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, BEARERS OF HOPE FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. JESUS CHRIST, COMPANION OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, BLESS THE PATHS OF DISCOVERY AND DISCERNMENT, THROUGH TIMES OF JOY AND EXPERIENCES OF HARDSHIP, WITH THE CONSTANT LOVE AND SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH. JESUS CHRIST, ALIVE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL YOUR PEOPLE, GRANT THAT WE MAY "JOURNEY TOGETHER, YOUNG AND OLD... TO NOURISH OUR ENTHUSIASM, CAUSE DREAMS TO EMERGE, AWAKEN PROPHECIES AND ENABLE HOPE TO BLOSSOM." JESUS CHRIST, REDEEMER OF ALL HUMANKIND, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO ENCOUNTER ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, TO ACCOMPANY AND BE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER, AND AS ONE CHURCH, EMBARK UPON OUR HOLY MISSION. JESUS CHRIST, IN THE COMPANY OF THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BE WITH US FOREVERMORE. AMEN.

- POPE FRANCIS, CHRISTUS VIVIT, 199

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

PASTORAL OFFICES

- Installed the fourth Pastor of our Parish, Fr. Dennis Aréchiga, in August 2022.
- Responded to numerous requests for anointing for the sick for ill parishioners and family members.
- Responded to numerous requests for prayers online and in person.
- Finance Council continues to meet monthly.
- Mailed approximately 2200 *Winged Lion* quarterly newsletter for 10 months.
- Made over 730 social media posts on FaceBook and Instagram.
- Produced 52 weekly bulletins.
- Pastoral Council was formed in November 2022 and continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month.
- Daily sanitization of church building continues.
- Facilities staff continue the role of groundskeeping for the parish plant.
- 3 Staff Development days.
- Welcomed 150 new parish families.
- Ministry Fair successfully partnered with Traveling Loaves and Fishes in the pumpkin patch.
- Weekly email message from Fr. Dennis continued.
- Installed an electronic marquee on Thousand Oaks entrance and repaired the 281 marquee.
- Acquired and lost a parochial vicar.
- Added and updated times of reconciliation.
- Rectory remodel plans approved by the Archdiocese.
- Performed major maintenance and upgrades on the sanctuary HVAC system.

OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY

- 2 Men's retreats
- 10 Scholarships awarded to Seniors
- 1 Women's retreat.
- 3 Blood Drives.
- Chicken BBQ and Fish Fry continued in full production.
- Trash & Treasure, Book Sales had record sales.
- Women's Guild Fashion Show returned.
- Traveling Loaves and Fishes partnered with Town Twin Village, a member of the Housing First Community Coalition.
- Completed 28th home for Habitat for Humanity.
- CYO replaced the Gymnasium floor on West Campus.
- Boy Scout Troop #500 inducted one Eagle Scout.
- Rosary Making Ministry made 900 rosaries.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry made 22 red, white, and blue lapghans for the VA, 28 premie caps for area hospitals, and regular prayer shawls for our parishioners.
- Caring and Sharing Ministry prepared meals for 40 funeral receptions, serving with 10 Kitchen Angels per event. They helped with Fr. Dennis' installation celebrations and his birthday celebration. And, prepared the Good Friday Lenten Meal.



MUSIC MINISTRY

- ◆ Yvonne Cosgrove Concert Series hosted the following: William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition Winners Recital, Festival of Lessons and Carols, and David Kauffman with Bill Gokelman, Mark Schuenemann, and Cindy Isaacson.
- ◆ Provided support for Catholic Schools Convocation Mass, Lumen Gentium Mass, Priest Ordination, and Diaconate Ordination.
- ◆ Welcomed new professional musicians to our cantor/accompanist roster: Eva Alpar, Maggie Wolfe, and Daniel Sobrevinas.
- ◆ Spanish Choir welcomed four new members – Elizabeth, Miguel, Edward, and Xochitl.
- ◆ Children's Choir sang for the Festival of Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Mass, and Mass on Mother's Day.
- ◆ Coverage over all weddings, funerals, Holy Days of Obligation, and other Liturgies (Christmas, Holy Week, Living Stations)
- ◆ Recruited the following volunteers to help with livestreams and lyric slides – Zach Aoki, Chuck Clucus, high schooler Riley Smith, and Bernardo Murguia.



LITURGY TEAM

- ◆ Hosted Convocation Mass for Archdiocesan Catholic Schools, special Mass for the Federation of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Permanent Diaconate Ordination, and Transitional Deacons.
- ◆ Home visits to those families who have experienced a death in the family.
- ◆ 69 Funeral or Memorial Services.
- ◆ Weddings and convalidations.
- ◆ Livestreamed 104 Masses.
- ◆ Mass attendance began sustaining 2200 attendees on weekends.
- ◆ FY23 Attendance at Mass 111,639.
- ◆ Average cost of Mass \$791.00.



ST. MARK

CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL

- ◆ Celebrated 43rd Anniversary of School, 115 Students enrolled (20% increase over last year).
- ◆ 19 Teachers, 2 Substitute Teachers.
- ◆ Staff meets bi-weekly.
- ◆ Met 172 school days.
- ◆ 46 Movement & Music Classes.
- ◆ SMCP Staff worked collaboratively to assemble and distribute curriculum enrichment activities. Components of faith enrichment were found in the Grandparents celebration, Christmas, Valentine Day, Easter activities, Mother's Day, May Crowning, and Father's Day crafts and prayer cards.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ 360 Children Enrolled in Elementary Faith Formation classes.
- ◆ 24 Catechists, 25 Assistant Catechists.
- ◆ 21 Class Sessions.
- ◆ 76 Children received the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
- ◆ 125 Children participated in VBS.
- ◆ 5 Baptismal Preparation Classes.
- ◆ 59 Children received the Sacrament of Baptism.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ 10 Adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation in December.
- ◆ 16 Adults and children fully entered the Catholic Church through RCIA at the Easter Vigil Service 2023.
- ◆ A new ACTS Core Team was formed and began planning and implementing retreats.
- ◆ All Bible Studies continue to utilize all classrooms in the Event Center-West Campus twice a day for 12 weeks during their regular Fall and Spring sessions and every Thursday evening. Attendance was 156 utilizing 21 volunteer leaders. Participation grew by 10%.
- ◆ In Prison Ministry, 19 volunteers from St. Mark, participated with 100 persons for a 3-day retreat at the Briscoe Unit in Dilley. 8 men received their sacrament through the RCIA process came into full communion with the Catholic Church.



YOUTH MINISTRY

- ◆ 50 VBS Teen Volunteers.
- ◆ 34 Teen ACTS 2022 Retreatants.
- ◆ 30 Teen ACTS 2022 Team members.
- ◆ 169 Teens registered in Life Teen or Edge.
- ◆ 36 Core Members and substitutes for Life Teen and Edge.
- ◆ 40 Parents & Community Members served on Meal Team.
- ◆ 11 Inspiration SA Participants.
- ◆ 44 Spring Retreat participants.
- ◆ 4 Youth Spectacular Participants.
- ◆ 1 teen entered Church through RCIA after attending a Teen ACTS retreat.
- ◆ 47 Youth received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ 22 Life Teen & Edge Nights plus a weekly High School Bible Study in the Fall.
- ◆ 17 teens, 4 young adults, and 11 adults in formation for Teen ACTS 2023.



FY 2023 INCOME STATEMENT

FY 2023 INCOME

ITEM	BUDGET	ACTUAL	TOTAL
COLLECTIONS (SUNDAY & HOLY DAYS)	\$2,239,100	\$2,300,499	\$61,399
OTHER INCOME	138,600	\$202,849	\$64,248
FAITH FORMATION	\$28,100	\$26,076	(\$2,024)
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$76,900	\$51,859	(\$25,041)
RENTAL INCOME	\$20,000	\$12,415	(\$7,585)
TOTAL	\$2,502,700	\$2,593,697	\$90,997

FY 2023 EXPENSE

ITEM	BUDGET	ACTUAL	TOTAL
ARCHDIOCESE ASSESSMENT (13% OF TOTAL INCOME)	\$320,004	\$320,004	
PROPERTY INSURANCE	\$146,000	\$145,368	\$632
UTILITIES	\$152,800	\$196,273	(\$43,473)*
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$84,000	\$110,690	(\$26,690)*
PHYSICAL PLANT	\$365,961	\$300,085	\$65,876
PASTORAL/ADMINISTRATION (PAYROLL, BENEFITS, VISITING PRIESTS, TRAFFIC CONTROL, I.T. SECURITY SYSTEM, PAROCHIAL VICAR)	\$683,199	\$737,368	(\$54,169)*
FAITH FORMATION	\$79,632	\$65,169	\$14,463
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$193,698	\$163,018	\$30,680
LITURGY/MUSIC	\$291,299	\$270,191	\$21,108
INTEREST EXPENSE (CAPITOL CAMPAIGN)	\$34,000	\$31,427	\$2,573
TOTAL	\$2,350,593	\$2,339,593	\$11,000

TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS) \$79,997

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Savings Account SMECC (As of June 30, 2023)	\$400,237
Savings Account SMCP (As of June 30, 2022)	\$15,365
Catholic Community Endowment	\$111,302
West Campus Capital Campaign	
Campaign Income (Parishioners & Andale Rebate)	\$117,985
Paid on Loan	\$181,419
Campaign Reserve Fund	\$94,654
West Campus Loan New Balance	\$804,360
Preschool	
Income	\$457,578
Expense	\$444,083
Net Income/(Loss)	\$13,495
C.Y.O.	
Income	\$125,261
Expense	\$152,465
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$27,204)*

*Variances

- 1) Utilities Expense higher than anticipated.
- 2) Repairs and Maintenance incurred unpredicted expenses due to past deferred maintenance.
- 3) Administration did not anticipate receiving a parochial vicar in FY23.
- 4) CYO replaced the gymnasium floor on West Campus.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are at least 18 years old, have been baptized and celebrated your First Communion this class is for you. Classes start October 3, 2023 | Confirmation December 2, 2023 1:30 PM
Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in Holy Family Room
For more information please call:
Rita Cabello at (210) 494-1606 ext. 320

Youth Summer Events Update

By Megan Byers

I've been blessed to serve on many Teen ACTS Retreats through the years as a teen, young adult, and staff member, but I can only describe our retreat on July 13-16 as the best! I've been trying to pinpoint what exactly made this retreat the best, because it wasn't perfect. Our team was made up of imperfect humans, we encountered some wildlife, our schedule didn't go according to plan due to things out of our control, and it was HOT, but our teens encountered the love of God every step of the way, so the only logical explanation is that the Holy Spirit was present.

I stood in awe of our teen directors, Alex and Ally, they led the retreat with grace and confidence. Our team members, who during 13 formation and planning meetings seemed like strangers, had transformed into a tight-knit community that welcomed the retreatants into with ease. I felt like Mary Magdalene, "they have taken my teens and I don't know where they have put them!" Except in my case, when Jesus said "Megan" my eyes were opened to see how Christ was present in each team member and their new zeal was the work of the Holy Spirit. They remained the same teenagers, but instead of appearing timid, the Lord had magnified their gifts and charisms so He could work through each one of them. Praise God!

Our theme verse was taken from the Parable of the Sower, "the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the Word and understands it..." The verse goes on to say that this seed bears fruit, and I am confident that the seeds planted on this retreat will continue to bear fruit in the years to come!

Life Teen Summer Camps welcome home thousands of teens each summer. Back in 2014, I went to

Camp Covecrest for the first time. It changed the course of my life and helped me grow in my faith. Being able to send teens to both Camp Hidden Lake and Covecrest this summer was a huge blessing!

Our group consisted of 20 people representing different parishes in our Archdiocese. The kids bonded quickly during our flight and bus ride to camp. Not only did the teens get to know people from different San Antonio churches, but they met people from all over the country; South Dakota, Florida, North Carolina, and Louisiana to name a few states.



If you aren't aware, this year the entire Catholic Church is going through Eucharistic Revival, so Life Teen's annual theme is "Real Presence." Camp programming centered around Jesus as a Historical Figure, the reality of Heaven, and the Transcendentals to build up to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The host at Covecrest was David Calavitta and the host for Hidden Lake was Helena Heffernan - they are both on staff with Life Teen and did a wonderful job leading the teens through each topic and helping them begin to understand the great mystery of our faith.

Each teen came back from camp a little scratched up and bruised from various camp activities, but with excitement to share what they learned with their friends and a desire to go back to camp next year.



Some of their favorite experiences were outdoor Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, low ropes (team building activities), going to the outpost, lake time/waterfall hike, and the Eucharistic Procession where the whole camp followed Jesus from the meeting space to the chapel. I am hopeful in this generation of Young Catholics and all they will accomplish for the sake of God's Kingdom.

The teens at St. Mark will be following Life Teen's annual theme during Edge, Life Teen, and Confirmation Prep this year. While not every teen from our parish could attend summer camp, we hope to provide them with the opportunity to experience some of the camp activities and nights of prayer here at St. Mark to help them come to believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

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



The TLF Pumpkin Patch is Coming Soon!

Volunteers will be needed for the unloading of pumpkins in the first week of October.

Contact Nancy Forget for more info:

210-410-8589

A Word From The Pastoral Council

By Steve Treu

The St. Mark Pastoral Council was reconstituted in November 2022. The following are our accomplishments in the last 10 months.

- Formed first pastoral council for St. Mark's in nearly thirty years.
- Commissioned eight members, plus Father Dennis: Michael Bossaller, LaVerne Dysart, Carlos Gonzalez, Barbara James, Diana Palacios, Mercedes Ramirez, Gary Richmond, and Steve Treu.
- Determined the council would expand to twelve members beginning July of 2024.
- Held monthly meetings, except during July, August and December.
- Regularly reviewed and assessed recent parish activities, staff updates, deanery activity, ministry reports, and Archdiocesan news.

- Adopted written bylaws, setting out (1) the purpose of the council, (2) its procedural standards, (3) pastor, officer, and member terms, training, roles and responsibilities, (4) guidelines in maintaining confidential meeting discussions, (5) committee needs, and (6) meeting requirements, including prayerful structure, yearly analysis of the pastoral plan, and consensus (rather than voting) means of reaching council decisions and recommendations.
- Brainstormed current needs of the parish.
- Discerned the current stage of growth of St. Mark's and assessed the adequacy of its mission statement.
- Held an annual retreat, which included pastoral council training from the archdiocese.

- Developed a secure and permanent electronic storage system for pastoral council minutes and related documents.
- Began a discernment for development, nurturing, and growth of young adult involvement at St. Mark's.
- Established a procedure for a parishwide yearly election of future council members, to occur in July.

We look forward to this next year of productivity moving forward in our Parish and this Year of Eucharistic Revival. We are open to all suggestions.

Steve Treu is the Pastoral Council Chair.

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR YVONNE COSGROVE CONCERT SERIES



Hall Pipe Organ Competition Winners Concert
Friday, October 6 | 7:00 PM

Notre Dame Glee Club
Monday, October 16 | 7:00 PM

UTSA Student Organ Recital | Thomas Hardaway
Friday, November 17 | 7:00 PM

Amahl and the Night Visitors (Opera)
Saturday, December 2 | 2:00 PM (See back of card)

Festival of Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 14 | 7:00 PM

** Times and dates are subject to change.

Mark your calendars now and save the date!

St. Mark's Music Ministry will produce *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a one-act musical show by Gian-Carlo Menotti. It is about the three kings and their journey to see the Christ Child. It is appropriate for the whole family! The show will be free and will take place in the Event Center – West Campus, Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 2:00 PM. It will feature Cathy and John Nix, our fabulous choir, and Josh Frilling on the piano. If you are interested in helping with this production – costuming, choreography (we need **dancers!!**), props and set design, or programs, email Cathy Nix jandcnix@gmail.com to get connected.

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

1602 THOUSAND OAKS DR
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 3235

PLACE ADDRESS LABEL HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Receive the Winged Lion directly to your inbox!

Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/fUDC1> (short link). You can also update your subscriptions at any time under the Update Preferences link provided in any St. Mark's e-message.

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

The WINGED LION

SEPTEMBER 2022

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30am,
	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

Holy Days
8:15am & 7pm

Eve of Holy Day
7pm

Reconciliation
Wednesday 5 pm-5:50 pm
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



www.stmarkevangelist.com | 210.494.1606

