

The WINGED LION

OCTOBER 2023

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A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga

“Then repay to Caesar

what belongs to Caesar and to God

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This passage from Matthew 22:15-21, the Gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, contrasts our obligations in the public sphere of our lives from those that belong to the spiritual sphere. Jesus carefully avoids the trap that the Pharisees have laid for him to enter into an argument about whether one owes taxes or not and instead opens up the conversation to a larger issue: what do we owe God?

The truth is, we owe everything to God! The gift of our universe, world and our lives all come from the creative hand of God. Even as we use our own talents and hard work to create and build material things that benefit us, we are called to be aware that underlying these achievements is the foundation of the gift of life that God has given us. In truth, everything we have is a gift from God.

Psalm 116:12 states: “How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me?” Indeed, God has not only gifted us with life but many other blessings as well. When we give to the Church our gift does indeed make a return to the Lord for the bounty we have received. It is in our church that we house the worship that those who participate in our liturgies deepen their understanding of the Word of God and are renewed by the transformational gift of the Eucharist. It is in our parish that we offer formation of faith all the way from young children to teenagers and adults through our Religious Education Programs, R.C.I.A., Bible Studies, retreats and other ministries. The buildings in which these liturgies and ministries take place require support for utilities, upkeep and critical repairs. This summer we were able to reinforce the roofs on Buildings 1, 2 and one of our Pre-School Portables as well as replace an A.C. unit there. The renovation of the rectory to ensure we can house an additional priest if sent to us is underway. We rely on your support to keep our doors open to welcome those who benefit from fellowship in faith here.

At times we can think our gift in such a large parish is not as consequential as if we belonged to a smaller congregation. However, a large parish, such as ours, has an even greater need and potential to form, minister to and serve more persons. Every donation of time, talent or treasure given is greatly appreciated and contributes to our parish's efforts to be a means of evangelization and outreach for others. Today, then, think of all the blessings you have received in your life. Then, ask the Lord how you can make a return to God for all the good God has done for you!

Father Dennis

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST
YOUNG CHURCH
 EDGE: GRADES 6-8
 LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12
 WWW.STMARKYM.COM | 210.494.1959

Where's Mother Mary?

By Sarah Tarrillion

St. Mark Children's Ministry families and Friends gathered to honor the Blessed Mother on her birthday, September 8th, with the unveiling of a new statue of the Virgen Mary placed on our campus.

This event included a Rosary of the Joyful Mysteries, unveiling of the statue, singing of Immaculate Mary led by Cathy Nix with the procession

to her place on our campus in Building 2, and the blessing and dedication of this statue for our Children's Ministry.

The purchase of this statue was made possible through donations from St. Mark Ministries and Parishoners. Those who gave of their time, talent and treasures were represented as they led a decade within the recitation of the Rosary. Thank you, Sal Scalia (Donor), Barbara James

(Women's Guild), Pedro Webber (Knights of Columbus), Leo Forget (Donor of construction skills), and Kathy Jeffrey Bolner (Donor).

Mother Mary is always with us, but we now also have a beautiful permanent image of her in this statue for the children to encounter as they participate in our Children's Ministry.

Sarah Tarrillion is the Development Assistant.



2023 Pumpkin Patch

By Travelling Loaves and Fishes

Come one, come all! Cooler air is coming in October! It's almost time again when you'll see the St. Mark field of trees become a beautiful park for fun and happy moments for all ages among our fall display of pumpkins, lighting, outdoor decorations, photo ops, games, train rides, zip line, and of course, the food truck and pumpkin smashing sling.

Please put us in your calendar for the four weekends of October, Saturdays and Sundays, beginning October 7th.

We're planning to have even better delicious treats, snacks and entre options for your empty pumpkin tummies!

We'll need our faithful volunteers to sign up to help us raise the funds we need to feed the homeless and hungry of San Antonio.



William C. (Bill) Hall Pipe Organ Competition
Winners Concert 2023



Friday, October 6
7 p.m. | Main Sanctuary

Featuring



Catherine Trausch
First Prize, Undergraduate Division
University of North Texas



Grant Smith
First Prize, Graduate Division
Rice University

The Yvonne Cosgrove 2023 Concert Series

Presents



Monday, October 16

7 p.m. | Main Sanctuary

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

Young Church Faith Formation

By Megan Byers

At our first session of Life Teen and Edge, I invited our teens and their families to think about the “good news.” Our Mission statement at St. Mark is “to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all God’s people by word and action,” but if we don’t ourselves know or believe what this “good news” is, how can we share it with others?

In Pope Francis’ Exhortation to young people, *Christus Vivit*, he states three great truths that we must live by: God loves you, Christ is our Savior, and Christ is Alive! Because He loves us, He sent His Son to die for our sins so that we can spend eternity with Him. But Jesus didn’t just die; He rose! He is alive!! Before He ascended into Heaven he promised his disciples, “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Sometimes it is easy to forget just how present Jesus is to me. If I can’t see him or feel him at all times, my faith can falter. Can you relate?

My brothers and sisters, Jesus not only promised to send us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit to be with us and give us wisdom, piety, and fortitude. Jesus gave us himself; His body and

blood, soul and divinity. Jesus gave us the Eucharist!

In those moments that I forget that I CAN see and feel Jesus in the Eucharist, I know I need to get to Mass. What a beautiful gift God has given us in the Mass. I remember as a child I would spend most of the homily looking at the ceiling, counting how many light bulbs were out. As a teen I figured out that when the ushers came forward with the baskets, we were halfway done. It wasn’t until college that I began to appreciate the liturgy and even the significance of being able to consume the Eucharist.

There is a statistic going around that 70% of Catholics don’t believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. 70% of people who attend Mass think what we do is a symbol or remembrance of what happened during the Last Supper. In response to that shockingly high number, the Church is undergoing a revival.

“The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.” (eucharisticrevival.org)

Jesus in John, Chapter 6, tells his followers, “Whoever eats my flesh and

drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.” Jesus loses followers after saying this, but he never takes it back. He doesn’t call out “wait you guys, I was kidding...” He lets them return to their former lives, he turns to the 12 disciples, and asks “Do you also want to leave?” Peter answers with great faith, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

As I learn more about my faith, I hope my response will always be like Peter’s at this moment! When my faith is shaken, when it is hard to believe, when I am confronted with the reality of our fallen world, I want to always remember the gift of the Eucharist. I want to share the good news of Jesus Christ with my brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the Catholic Faith because they do not believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. Will you join me in praying for revival? For deeper understanding of, and greater reverence toward the Eucharist?

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




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loaves & fishes

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The Pumpkin Patch

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Weekdays: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church | 1602 Thousand Oaks



ST. MARK
THE EVANGELIST

**FAMILY
NIGHT**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
Mass @ 5:30PM | Food & Fun to follow!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, BOUNCE HOUSE,
FAMILY GAMES & FOOD TRUCKS!



We can't wait to see you there!

210-494-1606 ext. 345  www.stmarkevangelist.com

American Wheelchair Mission

November 11 - 12

By Brian Nelson

The Knights of Columbus is a major partner with the American Wheelchair Mission having provided tens of thousands of wheelchairs for those who are disabled. The AWM provides high quality wheelchairs to the poorest of God's poor; those who have crawled, used skateboards or had family members carry them. There are many in the areas that St. Mark's covers that have a need for a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Please help these people obtain the freedom and dignity mobility provides. Children with physical disabilities can go to school, adults can go to work and provide for their families, and the elderly can get out of a bed they may have been in for years and are able to rejoin society.

Wheelchairs are obtained by AWM at very low cost due to their charity designation and volume of purchases, making it possible to provide many chairs to those who can't afford one. All chairs are charity donations.



No one pays for a wheelchair. Please go to <https://amwheelchair.org/donate/> to make a contribution.

St. Mark Council 7613, receives wheelchairs for the Archdiocese and distributes them here in San Antonio to places like the Padua Place home for priests, nursing homes, Hondurans suffering from numerous disasters and individuals here in need. If you or someone you know needs a chair and does not have insurance or cannot afford one please contact me at abn091951@gmail.com (preferred) and/or texting to 210-275-7921.

Mail checks made payable to the "American Wheelchair Mission" directly to:

Dan Moberg
American Wheelchair Mission
2600 E. Seltice Way A-172
Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 457-0745 dmoberg@am-wheelchair.org
for us all.

A. Brian Nelson is the Archdiocese of San Antonio Wheelchair Coordinator and member of Knights of Columbus Council 7613

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

By Mary Anne Votion

The "America Needs Fatima Rosary" refers to a prayer initiative organized by the America Needs Fatima organization, which is dedicated to promoting devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in the United States. Our Lady of Fatima is a Catholic title for the Virgin Mary based on reported apparitions in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

The "America Needs Fatima Rosary" initiative encourages Catholics in the United States to pray the Rosary for specific intentions related to

the country, such as peace, religious freedom, and the protection of life. These initiatives often involve organizing events, distributing Rosary materials, and encouraging people to participate in this prayer as a means of seeking blessings and intercession from the Virgin Mary.

Please join us on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Blossom Park located at 15015 Heimer Road San Antonio, TX 78232 behind Bradley Middle School at noon. Please bring a chair to sit in while we pray.

Our ministry is also seeking volunteers to pray the Rosary before

Masses. Are you available to help? Contact David or Ludvina Nelson at david.patrick.nelson1@gmail.com

Mary Anne Votion is the Director of Development.



Which Sacrament is the Most Important?

By Tori Bland

Baptism is the Sacrament most important to me because, first and foremost, it is the sacrament of initiation into the Catholic faith. Through baptism, one becomes a member of the Church and is welcomed into the community of believers. This sacrament marks the beginning of a person's journey of faith, and is the foundation upon which all other sacraments and spiritual practices are built.

Another important aspect of baptism is that it is believed to cleanse the individual of original sin and any personal sins they may have committed. In receiving the sacrament, the individual is made new and reborn in the Spirit. This not only brings a sense of forgiveness and peace, but also empowers the individual to live a life in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Baptism also marks the individual as a child of God and adopts them into God's family. This is symbolized by

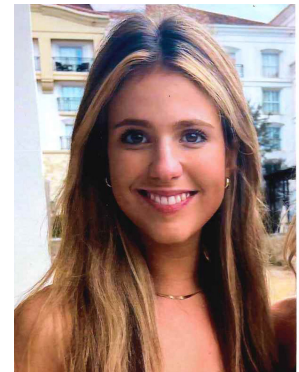
the anointing with oil, which is said to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit in the individual's life. The individual is now sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is part of the body of Christ. This is to say, by being baptized a person is no longer just a creation of God but also a part of God, with the same dignity and love.

Furthermore, baptism is also seen as a sacrament of unity. Through baptism, people of different backgrounds and cultures are united as one in the body of Christ. This sacrament breaks down barriers and promotes understanding and harmony among believers. Lastly, it is also believed that through baptism, a person can receive spiritual gifts from God, such as the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts are said to aid the individual in their spiritual journey and in fulfilling God's will for their life.

In conclusion, baptism is the most

important sacrament in Catholicism because it marks the beginning of a person's journey of faith, cleanses them of sin, and adopts them into God's family. It promotes unity among believers and empowers them with spiritual gifts to aid in their spiritual journey. Ultimately, baptism is the foundation upon which a person's faith and relationship with God is built.

Tori Bland is one of our parish youth and a recipient of the 2023 Women's Guild Scholarship.



Order of Alhambra

By Deacon Larry Brisiel

There comes times in a person's life, when he or she wants to respond to Jesus' desire for putting one's faith into action through charitable works. One such organization is the little known Order of Alhambra, which was founded in Brooklyn, New York in 1904 by William Harper Bennett. It is a Catholic men's fraternal organization (with some similarities to the Knights of Columbus, but with a history and theme based on the Moors and their palace of Alhambra in Spain about a thousand years ago.) In line with this theme is the hat, called a fez, worn by members. This hat attracts attention, but little is known about

the groups of men who wear it.

So, here's the scoop! The Order of Alhambra has members in groups called caravans in the United States and some other countries. San Antonio has two caravans, which have members from various parishes in the area. I am the Chaplain for our Alamo Caravan (No. 269). The mission is threefold: 1) Serving people with intellectual disabilities which includes: donations to private schools educating intellectually disabled children and adults and providing them with vocational skills; participating in Special Olympics; conducting recreation, field day programs and summer camps; providing field trips, boat rides, zoo trips, circus trips, picnics, Christmas parties,

dinner dances, etc. 2) Memorializing Catholic History i.e., to identify, mark, preserve, and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance. Over 160 such memorials have been established in Canada and the United States. 3) Sociability is a dominant characteristic of the Order. It flows from another stated purpose of the Order, namely, "To promote social, fraternal and intellectual associations and through its Caravans provide a practical means to form enduring fellowship and friendship among its members." The Order is a "fun" organization dedicated to doing worthwhile charitable work.

(continued)

Gifts of Publicly Traded Securities

By Mary Anne Votion

Giving publicly traded shares of stock, bonds, or mutual funds to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church (SMECC) allows you to turn an appreciated asset into support for a purpose you choose such as faith formation, general operating expenses, or a particular program. You'll receive a charitable income tax deduction for your gift, and as a qualified non-profit, SMECC can

then sell the stock without having to pay capital gains tax. All proceeds from the sale will be used for the purposes you specify.

1) The real cost of your gift is reduced, since you'll save on income and capital gains taxes by giving appreciated stock or mutual fund shares to SMECC.

2) You can use your securities to make different types of gifts, including:

*An outright gift that gives you a

charitable deduction for the value of the security while avoiding capital gains taxes.

*A gift that gives you income back and an immediate tax deduction, while leaving the assets to SMECC like a life insurance property or variable annuity.

To create a stock transfer from your brokerage account to SMECC, please call Mac McCarthy at 210-494-1606, He will walk you through the process.

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



Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 1, 2023
3:30 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Circle

Alhambra (con't)

So, what does Alamo Caravan do in our San Antonio community? Every Christmas Alhambrans donate Christmas presents to the clients of the Autism Treatment Center, fulfilling some of their wishes. We don't get to see them open the gifts, but we know they bring love and joy. Our Grand Commander has used his special talent of dressing up as Santa Claus the past few years and had the children and adults get gifts and pictures with "Santa." Donating and cooking food on a cookout, usually using an Alhambran's top-of-the-line BBQ rig whether it be to provide a meal or to raise funds for the clients of the Autism Treatment Center or of the Reaching Maximum Independence Center or of the Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horseback Riding occurs several times yearly. Lunch meals would be provided to the intellectually disabled of these centers during outings to Morgan's Wonderland or Altitude Trampoline Park or a city park like McAllister

Park. Then there are the special occasions of presenting checks of money raised through fund raising events to these various treatment centers and to educational institutions like Our Lady of the Lake University for scholarships for students studying in areas of special needs. Of course there is the important area of our charitable work in identifying and marking historical sites, persons, and events. We've marked St. Mary's Catholic Church downtown years ago and more recently Holy Redeemer Catholic Church with historical plaques near the entrance. Finally, there are the social gatherings of Special Needs Masses, annual picnic, Christmas party, etc.

For more information regarding the Order of Alhambra and/or its possible membership, please leave message at deaconlarry@stmarkevangelist.com or 210-494-1606 or Luis Martinez at luis528@sbcglobal.net or (210) 380-3316 and someone will return your call. You may also

contact our Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland at: 410-242-0660 or go online to: www.orderalhambra.org to view our Headquarter's website. Please pray for us and the continued success of our work!

Deacon Larry Brisiel is a member of The Order of Alhambra and a Deacon at St. Mark the Evangelist.



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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

OCTOBER 2023

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

Mass Schedule

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



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