

# The WINGED LION

JUNE/JULY 2023

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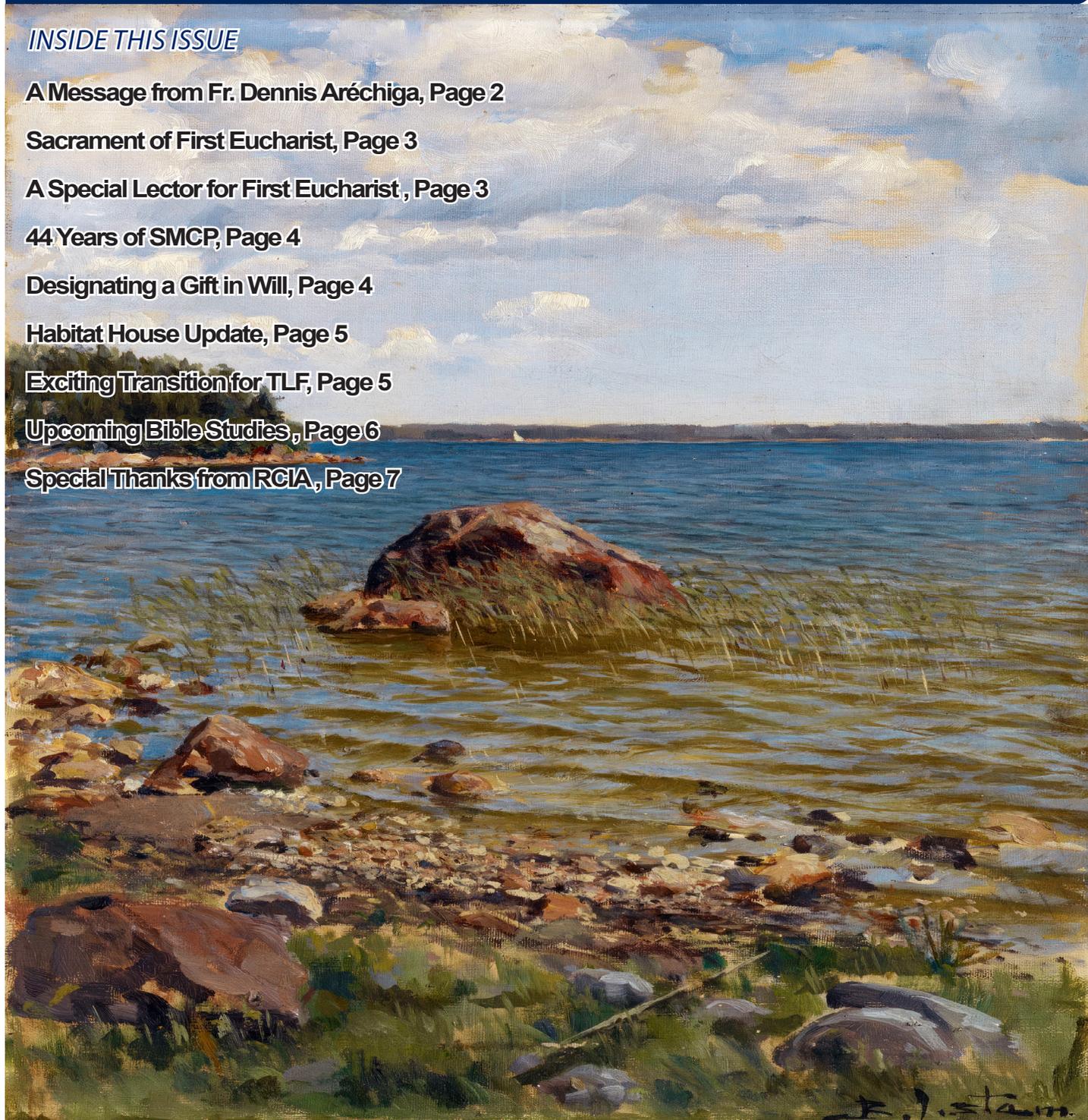
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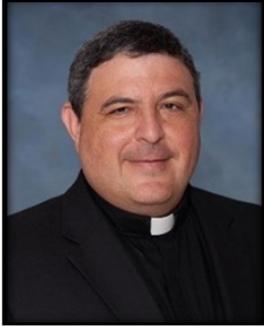
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## A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga



*“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

*The Gospel of John 14:6*

Something momentous happened this past May 2nd: the Camino San Antonio was born. A project under the “On the Way, Andale” Campaign Drive, a Visitor and Information Center sits on the old grounds of what was the first seminary in our diocese, St. John’s Seminary. It is located next to Mission Concepción just south of downtown San Antonio on Mission Road. This visitor center staff can create a customized option for pilgrims to visit the missions by foot, bicycle or car. Those who log miles can also document them in a booklet that the Camino of Santiago de Compostelo in Spain recognizes for its pilgrimages. The gospel verse above reminds us that we are called to be pilgrims who journey towards Christ who grants us the fullness of truth and a richness of life.

When a relic of St. James was discovered in Compostelo, pilgrims began flocking there as early as the 9th century. Some begin as far away as France. While the goal is to visit the church of St. James, another important aspect of a pilgrimage is the journey itself: making connections with other pilgrims from all over the world who are united in their pursuit of a deeper faith and relationship with God.

On page 595, The Catholic Dictionary states that the word pilgrimage comes from the Latin peregrinus which means “foreigner” and is “One who travels to a holy place to obtain some spiritual benefit, and the trip itself; the purpose of the pilgrimage may be to venerate a sacred object or religious relic, to be in the presence of a holy person, to do penance, or to offer thanksgiving in return for graces received (cf. Jgs. 21:2, 1 Sm. 1:3). The Ark of the Covenant was taken on pilgrimage to Jerusalem by David and his men (2 Sm. 6-7)”

Summer is a time with kids being out of school and when schedules may be more relaxed that lends itself to visiting a holy site. If one cannot travel to Spain, Rome or Jerusalem, there are many other interesting local sites apart from our local missions that are worth visiting. On Zarzamora Street on the near West side, the Church of the Little Flower is the National Basilica for St. Therese of Lisieux. The Oblate School of Theology hosts an outdoor replica of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto that is a peaceful oasis within the business of the city that lends itself to prayer and meditation; there is also an inside chapel attached to it along with a gift shop next door. Some of the beautiful chapels in our Catholic Universities such as Assumption Chapel at St. Mary’s University (1909) under the direction of the Marianist Order, the Motherhouse Chapel of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word (1907) and the Sisters of Divine Providence Sacred Heart Conventual Chapel (1921) on the campus of Our Lady of the Lake University are all worthwhile to see, pray in and experience. May we take the time to visit holy places of worship as we seek to follow Christ who is our way, truth and life.

*Father Dennis*



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**YOUNG CHURCH**

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

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# Sacrament of First Eucharist



By Mary Anne Votion

Each year many 7 & 8 year-olds at St. Mark Parish undergo a period of catechetical training where they learn about the significance of the sacrament of the Eucharist, its place in Catholic belief, and practice. They also attend a workshop to learn about the history and meaning of the holy Eucharist. This past May was no different!

At the Masses where the children

received this sacrament they all wore special clothing such as white dresses and veils for the girls or a dressy suit for the boys. They took part in the Mass as lectors and bringing up the gifts. Father Dennis gathered them around the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer where he invited the children to continue to receive the sacrament to draw closer to Christ. When time came to receive the sacrament, Father asked the congregation to wait and allow the children to receive the Eucharist first. It was clearly a very important event in the life of the children and their families who attended as witnesses to this special time.

Our prayer for these young people this important event marks the beginning of their regular participation in the central act of their Catholic worship and their deeper connection to the body and blood of Christ. We are grateful for Rita Cabello, Director of Elementary Faith Formation, her assistant, Alejandra Ceballos, and the numerous volunteers who helped bring these 77 chil-



dren to the Table of the Lord.

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

## A Special Lector for First Eucharist

Caroline De La Garza was selected to lector for this year's First Eucharist Mass and she did an outstanding job.

Caroline was baptized at St. Mark and has been active in church activities ever since. She is a graduate of St. Mark's Preschool, she has been part of the Faith Formation and Edge programs and has regularly attended VBS and Children's Liturgy of the Word where she garnered practice serving as a lector.

Caroline will be going into 7th grade at Great Hearts Forest Heights where she plays volleyball and runs track. She plays piano and is learning guitar and hopes to be part of the Life Teen music team one day.



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

## 44 Years of SMCP

Since 1980, thousands of children and multiple generations have been part of the St. Mark Catholic Preschool family. The traditions of the preschool act in mission of the parish, intertwining Catholic values with the love of learning, exploration, and discovery.

Our school day begins with prayer and is filled with fascinating lessons that support the developmental milestones of children 18 months to 5 years old. Children are active participants in learning, intrigued by the weekly themes and daily activities of the Experience Early Learning Curriculum. Utilizing a hands-on play-based approach to learning, we learn something new every day! With our low student to teacher ratios, we engage each child through large and small group instruction which affords individualized attention.

When not in the classroom, children have outdoor playtime and transition into the gym twice a week

for Movement and Music where we focus on gross motor development. As part of our active schedule, classes come together for Little Church in the Day Chapel where songs are sung and His word is shared.

Elements of our day are captured through the Brightwheel app, which provides the opportunity to share photographs with parents throughout the day highlighting the curriculum and other engagements such as seasonal parties and faithful gatherings. We are excited and thankful for the opportunity to begin year 44.

Come grow with us and join the St. Mark Catholic Preschool family. All are invited to contact the Preschool Office, (210) 494-9282, for more enrollment and staffing information.

*Melanie Rutkoski is the Director of St. Mark Catholic Preschool.*

## Designating a Gift in Will

By Mary Anne Votion

Making a gift from your will involves including specific instructions in your will that dictate how your assets should be distributed after your death. These are the steps you can follow to make a gift from your will:

- Determine what assets you want to gift. Think about what assets you want to leave behind as gifts. This could include money, real property, or other valuable possessions.
- Choose the recipient(s) of your gift. This could be a family member, friend or a charitable organization like St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church.
- Ensure your gift is legally valid by working with an attorney to draft or update your will. Your attorney can help you ensure that your gift is structured in a way that fully meets your intentions and complies with Texas state law.

- Include specific instructions regarding the gift. These instructions may include identifying the assets being gifted and outlining how they should be distributed.

- Once you have included your gift preferences in your will, sign and execute the will according to Texas state law.

Review and update your will periodically to ensure that your wishes are up to date and accurately reflect your wishes.

***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.*



**St. Mark Catholic Preschool**

**Now Enrolling**

Serving children ages  
18 months-4 years old as of September 1, 2023.

Please call (210)494-9282 for more information and to schedule a tour.

### 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.archsa.org/employment](http://www.archsa.org/employment)  
**Experience:** Previous teaching experience preferred.  
**Contact:** Melanie, Rutkoski, Director (210) 494-9282

### Come join the SMCP Family!



**ST. Mark VBS**  
**JUNE 26-30, 2023**

Summer is just around the corner and we are getting ready for our VBS Camp here at St. Mark. There are a few items we are asking as donations for this year's camp. We are in need of streamers in different safari colors (yellow, green, red, brown and orange), Styrofoam sheets, iridescent cellophane paper, packing tape, painter's tape, masking tape, grass skirts and pool noodles. We are also needing snacks such as cheez-its, teddy grams, vanilla wafers, goldfish, rice crispy treats, variety chips, chex-mix, pretzels, chocolate chips cookies and small water bottles. The snacks must be individually packed for our children's safety.

For more information or to register for VBS please contact:  
Rita Cabello at (210) 494-1606 ext. 320

## Habitat House Update



By Nancy Forget

Twenty five St Mark parishioners erected most of the framing walls and painted many trim boards for our 28th Habitat House on April 22.

It's always exciting to see a home take shape and 'walk' the rooms that a loving family will enjoy for many years to come.

Mike Costello and Leo Forget, long time Habitat supporters, oversee the construction after guiding the new volunteers. Thank you to all supporters for your time, talent and treasure.

*Nancy Forget is the Lead for St. Mark Habitat*

# Welcome

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

- Edgardo Hernandez
- Sylvia Trevino
- Robert & Jessica Martinez
- Belinda Ruiz
- Brian and Jessica Jawalka
- Kenneth & Robin Barry
- Jerry & Amanda Campos
- George & Claudia Hernandez
- Kevin Wenzel
- Michael & Svetlana Grogan
- Deacon Davis

## Exciting Transition for TLF

By Sarah Tarrillion

Traveling Loaves & Fishes became a part of the St. Mark community in 2004 under the name Mobile Loaves & Fishes with a mission to relieve immediate hunger and serve those in need with dignity. Since then, the ministry and St. Mark have partnered with one another well, supporting each other along the journey. This May TLF began an exciting transition to provide the same services, but at a new venue in Towne Twin Village, a development providing permanent shelter and community for the chronically homeless.

During this first phase of transition, TLF will continue delivering sandwiches to Catholic Worker House with plans to move these services when CWH's new facility in Towne Twin Village is complete.

Lunches and evening meals are now being served at the newly completed pavilion at Towne Twin Village.

LaVerne Dysart, Chairman of the TLF Board, shared her enthusiasm about the transition noting, "On the streets, TLF volunteers served food, but the greater significance of their service was showing their guests dignity all God's children deserve - seeing Christ in them... all the above will still apply at Towne Twin Village, but our volunteers will additionally be tasked with being ambassadors; We will show by our actions and words that those we serve are valued members of this new community."

The TLF Board is confident with a positive approach and prayer, the ministry will successfully work through this large scope transition to better serve those in need, our family of volunteers at St. Mark and our community of San Antonio. Travel-

ing Loaves & Fishes is grateful for the wonderful support of our community and ask that you to keep them in prayer as they navigate this exciting transition.

For more information on Towne Twin Village, visit <https://housing-firstsa.org/towne-twin-village/>.

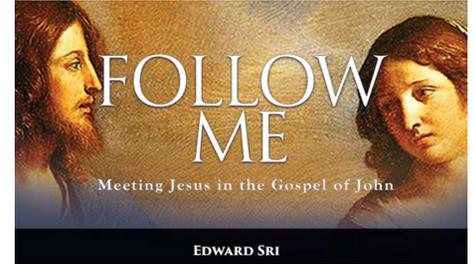
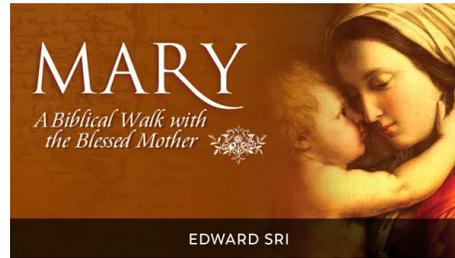
For more information on Traveling Loaves and Fishes, visit [www.tlfsa.org](http://www.tlfsa.org). To contact TLF, email [tlf.dysart@gmail.com](mailto:tlf.dysart@gmail.com)

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



TRAVELING  
loaves & fishes

# Upcoming Bible Studies



## Do We Realize How Richly We've Been Blessed?

Embark on a guided tour of the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is like a little Catechism. It is steeped in rich truths that are foundational to our Catholic Faith, but its highly refined theological concepts can be difficult for even the most seasoned Bible scholars to unpack.

Presented by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, *Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant* draws out the riches of this sublime book in a way that makes them easier to understand. It draws connections between the Old and New Testaments, the Liturgy, the Eucharist, the priesthood, and so much more. Most importantly, *Hebrews* will help Catholics appreciate the astounding generosity of God as they see the wonders he has given us in the Church.

Our Fall Session begins Tuesday, September 12, 2023 and runs for 8 weeks. Registration for either Morning or Evening classes begins after all Masses in the Narthex the weekend of August 5-6. Cost of registration is \$30.00 that covers a study guide and any other materials used for the Study.

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

## The Better We Know Mary, The Better We Will Know Her Son

*Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys . . . and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.

Our Spring Session begins Tuesday, January 9, 2024 and runs for 8 weeks. Registration for either Morning or Evening classes begins after all Masses in the Narthex the weekend of August 5-6. Cost of registration is \$30.00 that covers a study guide and any other materials used for the Study.

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



## Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend

*Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John* is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us. *Follow Me* invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. In this study you will learn what it takes to follow Christ and discover the joy of divine friendship. You will see how God, and only God, can satisfy the deepest desires of your heart.

Readers of John's Gospel will notice that many of the events he writes about are not found in the other Gospels. John does write: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name" This passage reveals the purpose of John's Gospel, which is also the purpose of this study.

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 to be 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](mailto:cosgrove-don@msn.com)

# Special Thanks from RCIA

By John Farrell

The Saint Mark community and the RCIA Team would like to thank the following Sponsors and Godparents who walked with the Catechumens and Candidates on their spiritual journey from the Pre-catechumenate to full initiation into the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil.



*Drusilla Garza  
John Rich  
Arthur DeLeon  
Mercedes DeLeon  
Carolyn MacDonald  
Rosa Ybarra  
Diana Figueroa  
Peter Pastrano  
Hunter Smith  
Miles Smith  
Zachary Alfaro  
Elizangel Gutierrez  
Miriam Gonzalez  
Luis De La Cruz  
Diane McConnell  
Jaynie Gomez  
Meadow Mendez*

Thanks also to all the others in the community who stepped in to help when called upon to substitute on short notice when the regular sponsor could not be present. We are deeply appreciative of your generosity.

For your dedication as representatives for the Saint Mark community

in being companions and guides to those seeking to become Catholics, we are profoundly grateful. "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (John 15:16)

*John Farrell is the RCIA Director at St. Mark the Evangelist.*



## You are invited to put your **faith in action**

In Matthew 25:14-46 Jesus challenges us to put our faith in action - to help those in need and use our talents for the glory of God.

What are we doing with our talents? How are we answering when we are presented opportunities to help others?

The Gospel of Matthew guides us with direction saying, "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me."

*Matthew 25:40*

*We as Knights are answering the call to help others and we have a great time while doing it. We are always hoping to add new members, especially young members to be the future leaders of our Parish. Join us!*

## BECOME A KNIGHT



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right to publish article submissions and edit all  
submissions for form and content.

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

*The*  
**WINGED LION**

JUNE/JULY 2023

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00am,  
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

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

*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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