

# *The* WINGED LION

November 2023

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## A Message from Fr. Dennis Aréchiga



*May we not overlook the importance of giving thanks to God.*

*“As he was entering a village, ten persons with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!” And when he saw them, he said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.”*

*As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.”*

This passage, taken from the Gospel of Luke 17:11-19 and the Mass offered on Thanksgiving, reminds us that although 10 lepers were cleansed, only one, a non-Jew and a Samaritan foreigner at that, returned to the Lord to offer thanks. The lepers who were healed received such a powerful gift – not only having their health restored but being able to rejoin society, find gainful employment and reintegrate themselves into society. That not all or most of them came back to offer thanks seems shocking to our sensibilities.

We have so much to be grateful for: the gift of our life, our faith, of living in a country in which we can enjoy the fruits of liberty and peace, especially when the world around us is in such turmoil and conflict. Thanksgiving is a time to pause, to reflect upon and count our many blessings. This gospel passage warns us to not be like those who are too busy to take the time to offer thanks to the one who makes all of our blessings possible, God, our maker.

I know that I am grateful for the gift of my family, you, my church family, and for the way God seems to provide even when energy levels are low and time seems in short supply; somehow, it all works out! November is also a time in which we celebrate the great feasts of All Saints and All Souls Day. It is a time when we remember the loved ones who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith. We too are grateful for their love and sacrifices, their kindness and guidance, that still impact us today. May we never forget them; may we be grateful for the imprint they have left on our hearts.

I pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving; I also give thanks for your presence as a faithful parishioner of St. Mark's Parish, and I leave you with a passage from the First Reading for the Thanksgiving Day Mass from Sirach 50:22-24:

*“Bless the God of all,  
who has done wondrous things on earth;  
who fosters people's growth from their mother's womb,  
and fashions them according to his will!  
May he grant you joy of heart and  
may peace abide among you.”*

Father Dennis



### Little Saints!

*In the month of October our Faith Formation program learned about many Saints.*

*Each child chose a Saint to dress up as for one of their classes!*

*Pictured:*

*The 3rd grade faith formation class during the 11:30 session.*

# A Musical Treat

By Mary Anne Votion

Last month the Music Ministry department hosted the Notre Dame Glee Club for dinner and evening performance October 16. It had significant relevance because Director of Music, Josh Frilling, is an alumnus of the Club and the music depart-

ment. Father Dennis Aréchiga, pastor of St. Mark, is an alumnus of their music department, also.

Each year the club decides on a tour during the University of Notre Dame fall break. This year they performed in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, Wichita, and Oklahoma City. The director, Daniel Stowe, reached out to Josh Frilling to secure a performance at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church. Attendance was spectacular, providing a mix of parishioner, alumnus, host families and college students.



*Mary Anne Votion is the Director of Development.*

# Our Family of Families

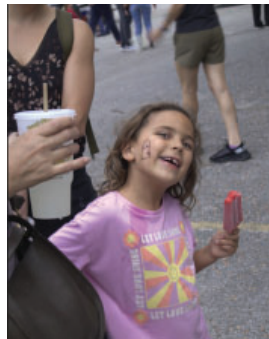
By Sarah Tarrillion

In the month of October St. Mark and St. Marks Catholic Preschool co-hosted our annual Family Night event. Wonderful food, games, activities, and entertainment were enjoyed by all who came.

Our Pastor, Fr. Dennis, expressed the heart of this event very well in saying, "This event allows us to get to know one another better and enrich our community life at St. Marks."

Thank you to all who helped bring this event to life and made it a great success for our St. Mark Family of Families!

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



# ACTS is Back

By Brooke Byers

Hello, my name is Brooke Byers, I am 23 and have been a parishioner at St. Mark for 23 years. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be able to say that my faith has been fully formed by this spectacular parish, the amazing people that make it feel like home, and the wonderful opportunities it has provided me with over the years that have grown and nourished my relationship with Christ.

One of those aforementioned wonderful opportunities St. Mark offers that I hold very near and dear to my heart is the ACTS retreat. There are a few different types of ACTS retreats that we offer here, each led by fellow parishioners. Men's and Women's retreats offered in both English and Spanish, Men and Women in Recovery, as well as Men and Women in Prison, and a Teen ACTS retreat for high schoolers.

I first witnessed the effects of these powerful retreats in seeing my parents' faiths being changed and their community expand as they attended - and then served on - their first retreats when I was growing up. Thanks to the youth program and the adaptation of the ACTS retreat to suit a younger demographic, I did not have to wait too long for it to be my turn to experience it for myself. I attended my first Teen ACTS retreat in 2015, served on team the following two summers and directed in 2018. I even came back to serve on team as a young adult once I started college. I don't think I could ever get sick of

being even a small part of these transformative weekends.

Although I always enjoy serving on team for Teen ACTS, I was entering into my 20's and starting to desire a deeper, more mature version of this experience that had given me so much. But when COVID happened, ACTS at St. Mark stopped for a few years. I am thrilled to say that as of this year, we are back in business and I was able to attend the Women's ACTS retreat in September! This experience was everything I needed.

The ACTS retreat has a truly special way of meeting you where you are at so you can get something out of it, no matter what stage of life you're in, and no matter what you're going through. I can't imagine there are many better ways to join a community that is loving and accepting and rooted in Christ while simultaneously strengthening your relationship with Him.

So far this year, we have had Men's Spanish and English ACTS retreats, Men in recovery, Women's English, and Teens.

If this sounds like something that you need in your life, I strongly encourage you to join us for an ACTS retreat that would suit your needs.

Still upcoming this year:

- Spanish Women's Nov. 2nd-5th
- Women in Recovery Nov. 16th-19th
- Men in Recovery Dec. 7th-10th

Scheduled for next year:

- English Men's Mar. 21st-24th 2024

*Brooke Byers is a young adult parishioner and member of the ACTS community at St. Marks.*



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

*Daniel & Deanna Collier*

*John Leos*

*Susan Lenn*

*Courtney Jendrzey*

*Ramiro, Diaz & Eldaueri Ramirez*

*Lynn & Pat Keene*

*Martin & Carmen Gutierrez*

*Jose & Ruth Martinez*

*Ann Peche*

*Andress & Maryssa Farias*

*Adam & Samantha Martinez*

*Katie & Blake Kohutek*

*Quinn & Martha Banas*

*Patricia Camacho*



# Fall 40 Days for Life

Submitted by Sherry Brewer

Our parish again committed to participate in the annual Fall '40 Days for Life' campaign and had a very successful 'sponsored day to pray' on October 14th. Parishioners and other friends covered the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood each hour of the day praying for the unborn.

Matt Troy, who participated, shared a few of his encounters. He noted one couple planning to vol-



unteer ran into car trouble, but that did not stop them. They caught an Uber and arrived to pray. Matt also encountered a woman stumbling upon their group and said, "I don't know why I went this way. I think God sent me. When I saw you all standing outside with your signs, I knew I had to join you. I don't have a sign, but I will stand with you." He shared with her they had a sign she could use. Another woman from Padre Pio said she went to St. Marks for Mass the weekend before because she was running late for Padre Pios Mass. When she saw the sign up for our sponsored day to pray, she felt led to sign up from 12:00 to 1:00PM. She arrived early, which was great because Matt was by himself for about 20 minutes. Others also came to pray who did not initially sign up, such as a few Eucharistic Ministers from our Parish.

It was a great, successful day, and played an impactful part in the '40 Days for Life' community awareness campaign.

If you are interested in more information on the Right to Life Ministry, Sherry & Joseph Brewer

are now the points of contact and can be contacted at 210-386-6790 or sherry\_brewer@icloud.com.

*Sherry Brewer co-leads St. Marks Right to Life Ministry.*



NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



**"True Parental Love...**

**... is ready to go beyond the bonds of flesh and blood in order to accept children from other families."**

**- St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae***



Dear God,  
Please bless every child who has been adopted. We pray for the grace of understanding that they are loved and wanted regardless of their past or present circumstances. We pray that they know the unconditional love of their adoptive family and feel the support and comfort of their community. Give them the grace to see their biological family with gratitude and understanding. We pray most of all that they know how loved and treasured they are by God.  
Amen.



## Interested in the Bible?

By Ann Swihart

About 15 years ago, I decided I wanted to know more about the Bible. I signed up for a Bible Study at St. Martha's In Kingwood, Texas. They were studying Exodus and found I was learning and making wonderful friends. The next year St. Martha's took up a study of the Gospel of John. I was hooked by this time on Bible Study, so the next year when I moved to San Antonio I signed up for Bible Study at St. Marks. I did not know anybody at the parish, so I was a little apprehensive. About a week later, I got a call from Marvin Borowski informing me I was going to be in his small group and we were going to study the Bible Timeline by Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press. I have been in Bible Study ever since.

In case you have never done a Bible Study, let me explain how it works. You are given a study guide that has lessons in it and questions for you to answer. At St. Marks we meet on Tuesdays. We have two groups; one group meets in the morning and one in the evening. Both meet in The Guadalupe Room on the West Campus. Each sessions starts with a video about the lesson, then we break up into small groups and discuss our questions.

Now you know the mechanics of Bible Study. This year we are half way through the study of the book of Hebrews. We will finish at the end of October, and in January we will start the Study of Mary, A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother, by Edward Sri. Here is a quote about the study from page 1 of the study:

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the

Blessed Mother is a powerful Bible study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. You will experience the gospel through the eyes of Mary and get a vivid glimpse into her daily life. Seeing her in this way will lead you to a deeper relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus.

The study of Mary is divided into 8 sessions.

- Session 1. Introduction
- Session 2. The Annunciation
- Session 3. The Visitation
- Session 4. The Nativity
- Session 5. The Presentation and The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
- Session 6. The Wedding at Cana
- Session 7. Mary at the Cross
- Session 8. Mary Crowned with Glory

If you are interested in joining us for this study please call me:  
Ann Swihart 281-615-9598

*Ann Swihart is the parish Bible Study Coordinator at St. Mark's.*

*Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is a Catholic Bible study that will bring you on an extraordinary pilgrimage, revealing Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives.*



WOMEN'S GUILD  
UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:

**CRAFT FAIR**  
NOV. 11 & 12

**TRASH & TREASURE SALE**  
DEC. 15, 16 & 17

**ST. MARK'S KICKOFF  
TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN  
EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

FRIDAY NOV. 3RD  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM  
EVENT SET TO BEGIN AT 6:30PM

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF XLT ADORATION &  
EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION AT ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

# The Lion's Pride

By Mary-Catherine Gomez

Did you know that the St. Marks quilt group, AKA the Lion's Pride meets on Fridays in Christopher Hall, room 201? Usually we start @ 9:30 and stay until around 1:30; we bring a sack lunch.

We do not punch a time clock; we

come and go as our lives dictate. If you would like to learn how to quilt, please come join us. We have the basic supplies there and many helping hands to get you started. Or perhaps you are a quilter looking for a great group to share your quilting knowledge with and to have fellowship with women who enjoy quilting.

Come see what we are about. For more details, call Pat Brookes @ 210-416-3933 or Wanda Hopson @ 210-844-6333.

*Mary-Catherine Gomez is a member of the St. Mark's Quilt Group, "The Lion's Pride."*



**PLEASE NOTE:**

DUE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, FR. DENNIS IS CANCELLING THE NOVEMBER 4, FIRST SATURDAY MASS.

ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023 · ASSEMBLY 2023

## ARCHDIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S., invites priests, deacons, men and women religious, and all the people of God to continue the synodal journey towards Eucharistic Renewal by participating in the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress. Let us open our hearts for a moment of grace where a profound encounter with our Lord through the reflection and celebration of the Sacred Mysteries of the Mass will transform us to go out as missionary disciples to witness about the saving power of Jesus Christ.

**Friday, November 3, 2023**  
**In your Parish Community | Evening time**  
 Each community will prepare its own activity to kick-off the Eucharistic Congress celebration on Friday. The evening might include Holy Hour, a blessing to communion participants, a Eucharistic talk, prayers of intercession for a blessed and fruitful Congress, or a teaching Mass. Check with your parish for more information.

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
**Campus of St. Mary's University | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM**  
 Join thousands of the faithful. Families with their kids, Catholic school faculty and staff, and leaders from all over are invited. All are welcome to gather as one family to celebrate and share meaningful experiences and moments of encounter founded in the Eucharist at the summit of our Faith. Part of our day will include presentations by Cardinal Tobin and Fr. Torre along with a memorable Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gustavo.

**CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN, C.S.S.R.**  
 Keynote Speaker (English)

**FATHER FERNANDO TORRE, M.SP.S.**  
 Keynote Speaker (Spanish)

**JESUS CHRIST, NOURISHMENT FOR THE WORLD**

Participation is free but registration is required. CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: ASSEMBLY@ARCHSA.ORG | 210-734-1952  
 LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: WWW.ASSEMBLYSA.ORG

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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, (Livestreamed)

12 Noon

2:00 pm (Spanish)

Monday

5:00 pm

Tuesday

8:15 am

Wednesday

8:15 am

8:15 am,

Thursday

6:00 pm (Day Chapel)

Friday

8:15 am

8:15 am

First Saturday Mass 9:30 am

Holy Days

8:15am , 12PM & 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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