

The WINGED LION

FEBRUARY 2022

a Message from Msgr. Kevin Ryan

My dear people,

As your pastor, I am reaching out to you because I need your help in completing our capital campaign goal. And in accordance with the story of the magi's gifts I come to you to share that each month we will have a second collection to reduce the debt our parish incurred when West Campus was purchased in 2014. Paying off the West Campus debt is critical in order to not only continue our mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to all God's people in word and action but to move forward as we grow as a family and as a part of San Antonio's Catholic community. Currently, West Campus is being used at 95% capacity by our ministries and parishioners.

We, as a parish, have so much to be grateful for. We have an energetic parish community with over 50 active ministries that fulfill our mission and give parishioners the opportunities to be instruments of God. We have the staff, clergy, ministries, and volunteers to proclaim the Word of God, celebrate the sacraments, and exercise our ministries. We also have many generous parishioners who have given above and beyond their regular offerings so that we may pay off the West Campus loan and give generations-to-come the spaces and opportunities to follow Christ, grow in Christ, and share Christ with each other.

I pray that every household will be involved in some way to help us complete our capital campaign goal. Each and every contribution (no matter how big or small) is valued, and all gifts are critical. If you are presently contributing to the capital campaign, I humbly ask you to extend your commitment. If you have been contributing to the Archdiocese "On the Way Andale" capital campaign, and your pledge period ended December 31, 2021, I ask that you consider pledging that sum to the capital campaign at St. Mark. If you have not contributed, I ask you to please consider making a sacrificial gift now.

Having paid most of the debt so far, I know we can pay off the balance—we just need your help.

Capital campaign goal: \$5,000,000
(includes \$900,000 for repairs)
Original loan amount: \$4,100,000
Current loan balance: \$1,039,517

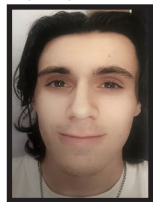
Will you share your gifts with our parish? Together, we will grow the St. Mark community so that we may give generations-to-come the spaces and opportunities to follow Christ, grow in Christ, and share Christ with each other.

May God's blessings be with you,

Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan

How have the pandemic restrictions affected your faith life?

By Kyle Patton



The pandemic restrictions impacted numerous aspects of my life, including school, family, friends, and more importantly, my faith. Spring break of 2020 was relaxing and I was delighted to have time off from school. I recall receiving a text message, containing news that spring break was extended for another week the news overjoyed me, but I had no idea how substantially this would affect me and the entire world. After moving to online classes, and in-person school cancelled for the rest of the semester, I learned new ways to adapt and overcome the challenges. Prior to spring break, I was rehearsing for stations of the cross as a Roman guard. I enjoyed the community

that we worked with, and they filled everyday with entertainment. We continued having the rehearsals up until after spring break, where they cancelled the stations all together. I remember feeling so disheartened because of how much I was looking forward to performing. Nevertheless, I continued on with attending Zoom meetings for the Teen Acts retreat for that summer. The meetings were amusing and entertaining. But after a few they started to get repetitive with not as much to do. It was hard to form a bond with the team due to everyone being online and not being able to communicate and practice in person. The retreat was postponed until further notice, and eventually cancelled altogether. I felt very discouraged, because this was my first year on the team and I really wanted to serve the community through the retreat. Furthermore, the restrictions

of the pandemic caused for Mass to not be in-person which was difficult for me to overcome. After watching some Masses live on YouTube, I never felt the same and did not get what I wanted out of it. Eventually, I had to look for a new way to worship and come close with my faith. So, I looked to reading the Bible. I made it a goal of mine to read at least one verse every day. I continued to pray to God and talk with Him about everything, and He helped me push through the pandemic and further my relationship with Him.

Although facing many challenges through the pandemic, the restrictions overall allowed me to become even stronger in my faith, and worship God more than I have ever before.

Kyle Patton is one of the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Recipients.

Begin Again

By Megan Byers

How is your New Year's resolution going? Did you make one? What are your goals for this year? I've noticed a lot of jokes on the internet about the resolution to lose weight. People will say "wait until February to go back to the gym. That's when people give up on their resolutions and it will be less crowded." We laugh because it's true, but it doesn't have to be! Since it's February, I want to offer encouragement and give you the space to reflect on the past month.

- You can do hard things. You may not want to follow through on our resolutions because they are hard, or you are tired, or you are busy, but you can do it! God tells Cain in Genesis 4:7, "sin lies in wait at the door... yet you can rule over it." We face temptations everyday, but we have the strength to choose not to sin. Messing up on a resolution isn't

a sin, but there is an opportunity to grow in virtue while sticking to your resolutions, especially if they involve spending time in prayer. Consistently choosing the good will make it easier for us to choose good when we are tired or busy.

- Be gentle with yourself. If you miss a day or "cheat" on your diet, do not become discouraged. You are not a failure, you are learning and growing. You will make mistakes, but be gentle with yourself. Don't throw everything away the first time you stumble and fall; pick yourself up and begin again.

- Continue to bring your resolutions to the Lord in prayer. Always return to prayer to seek direction from our Lord! He will enlighten you and fill you with peace in your decisions. If carrying out a resolution is causing anxiety, leading you away from the Lord, or detrimental to your health, STOP!!! Jesus speaks

peace. Jesus desires your good. Jesus wants to keep you close.

As we near the season of Lent, you can use these pointers to help in discerning and carrying out your Lenten promises. You can give up things you enjoy, but don't be unrealistic or sacrifice your health for the sake of fasting. Be gentle with yourself if you mess up, but don't give up; begin again. Always return to the Lord in prayer!! Ultimately, He knows what is best for us.

Megan Byers is the Assistant Youth Minister at St. Mark the Evangelist.



St. Vincent de Paul Society at St Marks Year in Review

By Richard Miller

On Sept. 30, 2021, St. Mark St Vincent de Paul Society (Conference) completed another year in support of needy families in our parish area. This fiscal year was very much complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Virtually all of our procedures had to be changed to protect the health and safety of both our SVdP volunteers and those we serve. No visitors were allowed in the SVdP office and all of our food and financial support was done remotely – electronically and by telephone. Any contact was done by observing masking and social distancing. Overall, calls for help were reduced by almost half compared to FY 2020; this may have been in part a result of the two Covid Stimulus Payments which obviously helped needy families.

From Oct. 1, 2020 to Sep. 30, 2021, St. Vincent de Paul received 519 calls for help, and provided food and/or financial assistance to 1,454 adults and children. The Parishioner donation to S. Mark St. Vincent de Paul Conference was \$89,778 for the fiscal year. Our St. Vincent de Paul volunteers disbursed \$68,700 in utility, rent, medical, and other financial assistance to needy families. We provided approximately \$18,072 in non-perishable food distributed from the SVdP food pantry at St. Mark and \$7,450 worth of HEB food cards to allow our clients to purchase perishable items such as dairy products, meat, and fresh fruit and vegetables. The Table compares our

Interested in volunteering?
Call Maria Rodriguez at
(210) 858-0399

"What you did it for the least of my brethren, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

REVENUE	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Parish financial donations	\$106,342	\$98,344	\$89,778
EXPENSES	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Disbursements to those we serve (utility, rent, medication assistance)	\$95,119	\$65,989	\$68,700
Food support to Haven for Hope	\$7,368	\$10,368	\$68,700
Conference expenses (postage, ink, etc.)	\$2,582	\$2,260	\$1,959

income and disbursement history for the past three fiscal years.

Because of the pandemic, the program of serving of meals to the homeless at the Haven for Hope Prospects Courtyard was canceled for the year. The Conference continues to make monthly donations to "Meating the Need" program which provides much of the food used by the larger San Antonio St. Vincent de Paul Society to prepare meals for the homeless at the Courtyard.

Food distribution continues as a basic feature of the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, and requires the hard work and dedication of many volunteers, referred to as "Pantry Partners." Each week the partners collect food donations brought to the church by many generous parishioners and ministries; we code the food by expiration date, and organize and shelve the items in the pantry. Our large annual food drive is held during Thanksgiving each year, and provides the bulk of the food needed for the Christmas season. Because of the large client demand, however,

the pantry stocks are quickly dispensed to needy families. Hence, we continue to need food donations throughout the year. Please refer to the weekly church bulletin for a list of the most critical food items needed to re-stock our pantry.

Because helping to meet basic human needs is a vital aspect of the St. Vincent de Paul mission, our principle focus is to provide person-to-person assistance to individuals and families in need, to meet their daily living requirements and help them to become self sufficient with a sense of hope, dignity, and well being. Our deep appreciation is extended to all of our generous parishioners who contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Ministry via the monthly "blue-bag" collection. We also owe a hearty "thank you" to the many hard working Vincentian volunteers for making the St. Mark SVdP Conference the great success that it is.

Richard Miller is the St. Vincent de Paul Treasurer at St. Mark the Evangelist.



ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

FAITH FORMATION

WELCOME BACK!
SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SESSIONS
HAVE STARTED FOR GRADES K-12

VISIT WWW.STMARKYM.COM/REGISTER
OR CALL 210.494.1959





Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the "least of these" means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and Godtube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that

it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to "pay it forward." They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time.

Everyday Stewardship by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

David and Joan Zurovec

Ryan and Ana Ahnberg

Diana Lara

Austin and Faryn Miller

Gary and Torrie Thomas

Terrence DeRosa

Marilyn Hartman

Matthew and Kristina Myers

Donald Wittich

David and Catherine Eaton

Jungkeun and Amanda Song

Adult Confirmation

Congratulations!



Mary Nicola "Nikki" Macken, Raul de la Fuente, Lisa Clark, Ruben Reyes, Jesse R. Fuentes Jr., and Zachary Olmedo in receiving the blessings of the Holy Spirit during their Confirmation at The Church of the Holy Spirit at 10:00am on Saturday, December 4, 2021.

We offer this pray for you...

Holy Spirit, strengthen our St. Mark Confirmandi with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, as a disciple of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit. Help them to experience and trust your dwelling within, so that they may count on your guidance today and every day. Show us the way to help one another become better disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing your love with our world and with each person we encounter. Amen.

The Pandemic and the Eucharist

By Mike Pattillo

We have gone through a very difficult time in our lives – all areas of our lives – due to the Corona Virus. We were prevented from attending Mass, we suffered illness and even death, experienced shortages, and now price increases in almost everything that we use on a daily basis.

But, we are seeing a great deal of improvements as well. Your Knights of Columbus have been saying a rosary every Tuesday for an end to the pandemic. That, coupled with your prayers, have produced vaccinations in record times and people more aware of how to protect themselves and others. Mass is now open and the dispensation from attending

Sunday Mass has been removed. So, where are our fellow parishioners? Have we gotten complacent? **How can that be?**

In the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” St. John Chrisostom is quoted, “You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.”

Christ gave us the Eucharist, His own body and blood. We have yearned during the pandemic to receive Holy Communion. If you have not felt that yearning, you are urged to take some time out, and listen to

your heart and your soul. Is something missing? Christ is calling you to take advantage of the wonderful gift He gave to us on Holy Thursday before He suffered a horrendous death for us, His body and blood in Holy Communion.

Msgr Ryan has asked us to pray for those who are not yet returning to mass that they may rediscover the joy and blessings of the Eucharist. Please, take a few moments, identify what you have been missing. For those who have already returned, may we never take receiving Holy Communion for granted again.

Mike Pattillo is a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Living Stations Of The Cross Is Alive At St. Mark The Evangelist

By Jonathan Bassett

The preparations have begun! It has taken the form of phone calls, emails, pulpit talks, meetings, and hallway discussions. Yes, the Good Friday Liturgy of Living Stations Of The Cross is taking shape in a big way. We are so blessed at St. Mark to have a faith community that is always at the “ready” to serve. Aside from my love for Living Stations Of The Cross, it is this “can do” mindset that permeates our parish and keeps me coming back to be involved in this Liturgy.

So, what are we to witness at 3pm on Good Friday April 15, 2022? What we will see is, parishioners just like you and me, taking on the role of people that were present on Christ’s journey to Calvary, including Jesus Himself. This is a journey of suffering that is palpable to all who attend. Who cannot be drawn in by the depiction of what we have heard in the scriptures? To see Jesus standing alone as He is condemned

to death by Pontius Pilate is heartbreaking. He is truly alone. Peter, one of His closest friends, has denied any association with Him. Jesus in not only condemned to death, but then is forced to carry the instrument of His death on the road to Golgotha. We feel His pain and exhaustion with every step He takes. In a much less overt way, we see and feel the suffering of our Blessed Mother. She is there for every step of her son’s journey, internalizing every harsh word said to Him and every insensitive act thrust upon Him. As Christ’s walk to Calvary unfolds, we are very much drawn into the helpless suffering of Mary.

Christ’s journey of suffering is about so much more than just the suffering however. It is about love we feel from Mary, the kindness and courage of Veronica, the compassion of Simon and Joseph of Arimathea,



and the remorse of some of the Roman soldiers. This is highlighted by the love Jesus has for you and me, by fulfilling the will of the Father.

Each year we have done the Living Stations Of The Cross Liturgy, we have tried to highlight certain elements or add something unexpected to draw in our family of parishioners. The story is never altered, but within the historical accounting of Christ’s journey, we add something new. So even if you have attended Living Stations Of The Cross each year it has been presented at St. Mark, this years’ Liturgy will depict something from the scriptures that is new to our presentation.

Consider making Living Stations of the Cross part of YOUR lenten journey. We look forward to seeing you on Good Friday April 15, 2022 at 3pm!

Jonathan Bassett is Lead of Living Stations of the Cross at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Kof C American Wheelchair Mission

By Brian Nelson

The Knights of Columbus is a major partner with the American Wheelchair Mission (AWM) having provided tens of thousands of wheelchairs for those 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 St. Mark's covers that have need but can't afford. 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 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 donate. Please note KC Council 7613 on the form and inform me at my email or text so I can track Diocese totals.

St. Mark Council 7613, receives wheelchairs for the Diocese and distributes them here in San Antonio to places like the Padua Place home for priests, Christus Santa Rosa Hospital system, 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 wheelchairSM21@gmail.com (preferred) and/or texting to 210-275-7921.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted donations for wheelchairs. We need YOUR support.

1. Make a donation as a family.
2. Get several friends or neighbors together to make donations towards a wheelchair. Ten friends giving \$15.00 would cover one wheelchair.
3. Use the credit card to contribute. Please go to <https://amwheelchair.org/donate/> to donate. Please note Council 7613 on the form.

Donations by check can be sent directly to the American Wheelchair Mission at:

Dan Moberg
American Wheelchair Mission
2600 E. Seltice Way A-172
Post Falls, ID 83854

(208) 457-0745

dmoberg@amwheelchair.org
Please send an email to:
wheelchairSM21@gmail.com or
text to 210-275-7921 with name,
date and amount for my data bank.

For each \$150 donation, you will receive a beautiful certificate folder with the picture of a wheelchair recipient inside. You must include your name and address to receive the certificate folder. If you use a credit card and wish to receive a picture please indicate it on the form. With a \$500 donation, you can request a framed Our Lady of Guadalupe 34" x 23" digital print that has been blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"Pray for the less fortunate. Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40.

Brian Nelson is a Past Grand Knight at St. Mark the Evangelist Council 7613 and the Archdiocese of San Antonio American Wheelchair Mission Campaign Coordinator.

Thank You Bill and Kathy for all the support through the years!



For many years St. Mark the Evangelist has been blessed to have Bill and Kathy Faucher as part of our community. Bill and Kathy have participated, been part of and volunteered in many of our ministries. Serving on the Board of The Guadalupe Home, as Eucharistic Ministers, leading St. Mark's Habitat for Humanity, choir member, working with the prison ministry, Acts, accepting the leadership of the Knights of Columbus as Grand Knight, keeping our permanent books up to date, and always willing and ready to help in any area that was necessary, always with a positive attitude and helping heart. St. Mark will truly miss Kathy and Bill and we wish them both many blessings in their new adventure and new home.

St. Mark Habitat for Humanity

By Olivia Lucero

St. Mark's Habitat for Humanity will soon start up again to work on their next house. All are welcome to volunteer to help us build or to provide lunches. No prior construction knowledge necessary. We will meet on Fridays and Saturdays from February 4th to April 9th. Thank you to all of our generous donors - we are about halfway to the funding we need for the house, and will collect donations during mass on Jan. 8th and 9th. We will also have sign-up forms near the day chapel after mass for those that would like to sign up to volunteer. Is God calling you to help a family in need of a home?

Sam Szalwinski started this ministry at St. Mark's. What follows is his story of how it happened.

How it Started

You may be surprised how the Habitat for Humanity Ministry got started at St. Mark. While Sam was employed at a bank, the bank was invited by the Habitat organization to provide volunteers to work for a day. Sam went and was reminded of the house he lived in from 10-17 years of age, which was a very decrepit old house on a farm. His room was a closet with a cot. At night he could see the stars and the moon through the holes in the roof. When it rained, a piece of plastic was used to cover his bed.

NOW FAST FORWARD and Sam retired. He gave Habitat For Humanity a call and met with them

to see how he could help bring workers to the worksite to assist in construction. Instead, they expressed interest in finding sponsors to build an entire house. They then discussed it with Msgr. Ryan who said "LET'S DO IT"!! When they left our Pastor's office they looked at each other and asked ourselves "NOW WHAT WILL WE DO?" They needed (in 1998): 1) \$34,000 2) Volunteers, 3) Meals and refreshments for volunteers and 4) Lots of Prayers.

They got to work at full speed ahead. They spoke about it from the pulpit, Church Bulletins, and Newsletters. They had "Sign Up" weekends for Parishioners to select commitment dates and make donations. This was a tremendous success and it gave them the confidence that they needed.

Bev took care of everything involving food and refreshments. Sam took care of funds and scheduling workers. They received lots of assistance from so many Parishioners. One would delay financial help until late. He would then ask how much was needed to meet the financial goal. He would then write a check for the balance needed! When his family moved to another Parish, his generosity continued.

Sam and his wife discontinued this ministry when the 19th house was built. Bill and Kathy Faucher assumed leadership of this Ministry and have completed 7 more houses that people call homes.

Bev and Sam thank God for the opportunity that He gave them to

serve people. They thank Father Kevin Ryan for his support and they thank all Parishioners who helped them build 19 HOMES!

It Lives On

Now, both the Szalwinski's and Faucher's have passed the torch on this ministry. It will look a little bit different this year. We thank them for the leadership they provided and the 26 buildings they've led. Please pray for this ministry as we work to keep the ministry alive and well so we can provide more houses to families in need. We need donors and volunteers to help us complete our 27th house. It would provide an opportunity for humility, giving, and love.

Jesus was a carpenter, as was his earthly father, Joseph. That's something to meditate on as you contemplate whether God is calling you to build. As we contemplate our role as Missionary Disciples, we call on you to encounter Christ here, in the humble building of a stranger's home. Through this love and generosity, a family will be able to be together with a roof over their heads, something that so many don't have. Both of which we too often take for granted: a roof and the family unit, family togetherness. We hope to spread the love of Christ and the beauty of family through this generosity, love, and humility. Please consider joining our mission!

Olivia Lucero is the Communications Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Thank you from TLF



Traveling Loaves & Fishes (TLF) ministry held an amazing fun-for-all Pumpkin Patch and truly made a park at St. Mark in the large oak grove.

Thank you to all the volunteers of all ages who came together in the spirit of joy and charity to support our mission to feed those in need, with respect and dignity. TLF dedicated volunteers donate time, food items, and funds. You too might consider joining a sandwich prep team, meal

delivery team, food donation pick up, substitute, or join the TLF Board. Contact us by phone: 210.488.3514, email: tlf.dysart@gmail.com, Facebook: travelingloavesandfishes or our website: <https://tlf.org>.

Happy New Year!

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

FEBRUARY 2022

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

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30am, 10:00 am, (livesstreamed) 12 Noon 2:00 pm (Spanish) 5:00 pm
Monday	8:15 am
Tuesday	8:15 am, 5:00 pm
Wednesday	8:15 am
Thursday	8:15 am
Friday	8:15 am

Holy Days
8:15am & 7pm

Eve of Holy Day
7pm

Reconciliation
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

