

The WINGED LION

JUNE/JULY 2020

A MESSAGE from *Msgr. Kevin Ryan*

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

Dear Parishioners,

During these past ten weeks, all of us have experienced the pain of separation. Families, friends, working partners and faith communities have all understood the seriousness of the pandemic we are experiencing. Because of this understanding, we have arrived to a new place in our lives. There is a greater understanding of what it means to have job security, good health, a loving and supportive family and to appreciate all the blessings that we have received from God. We have seen love, self-sacrifice and the spirit of generosity lived out in a very concrete ways in our lives. People have reminded us that they are praying for our well-being and for us.

All of these positive experiences of community are blessings from God in these times. I am looking forward to joining with you in prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving when we can worship together again. It will not be possible for all of us to meet and greet each other at this time but our prayers can be unified prayers to God our Father through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to continue to watch over and guide us during these difficult times.

May God bless you,

Kevin S. Ryan

MUSINGS . . .

By Anne Kemper

During the first days of the Covid-19 Shut Down, in the confusion of what was happening to all of us, the abrupt changes at St. Mark the Evangelist, the noise and hurry of life suddenly stilled (except on TV and my cell phone ringing at odd hours,) the tension and fear all around, I spent a lot of time grappling with the myriad of feelings and random thoughts interrupting my prayer life, my sleep and my routine, trying to make sense of it all. And then one morning, half asleep, while washing my hands, I listened to myself singing “Happy Birthday to you , Happy Birthday to you. Just 20 seconds and your hands will be germ-free, so DO!” and it suddenly dawned on me that I am grieving! That’s what is going on here in my soul, in my body, in myself! That’s why I am so tired, that’s why I have trouble thinking clearly, that’s why I look in the mirror and see a grumpy old lady. No joy! Dear Lord God, thank you for the insight. Because now I can move, now I can begin to think clearly. I know what to do because I’ve been here before. More than once. And each time in my

life when I have been plunged into grief because of the losses of people who are dear to me, I have learned something new—about the process of grief, the feelings associated with grieving , the physical , emotional, and mental challenges of grief. And a little bit about how to deal with grieving.

The difference is that this time I am dealing with the grief of LOSS, not of a particular person, but of my peculiar way of living my life every day. From one minute to the next my life changed – all of our lives changed. Usually at the end of active grieving there is peace; that will return also. The kicker this time around is the uncertainty of it all. What will come back? What have we lost forever? How do we cope with a totally new world with all the twists and turns our lives are taking? What is going to happen to our children and grandchildren when they cannot go to school, play outside , be with their friends? Everything is different now. Or is it! God is still here with us, God is still loving us, Jesus is still our Best Friend. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in our midst God is HERE! But where had I been! All wrapped up in me, as usual. . . . Not

really listening to God in the silence - God’s language of love. I need to use what God and grieving have taught me Come back home to myself, to the basics of my relationship with God, to obedience, to trust, to prayer, to faithfulness to the commandments, to listening to God in whom I live and move and have my being, to concentrating on others and helping them. . . .

That’s where THE JOY IS! In Jesus, Others, You IN THAT ORDER. Every day in every way Grief can be the most liberating experience in life We are all grieving. So let’s move through this experience of slavery to ourselves into the freedom of peace. One step at a time, one day at a time just like our ancestors in faith in the desert so long ago My hope is that we learn faster than they did; it took them 40 years to get to the Promised Land! AHH----we have a secret weapon that Moses and his Israelites did not have! Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us! Pray with us!!

Anne Kemper is the RCIA/Catechumenate for Children Coordinator and Spiritual Director at St. Mark the Evangelist.

We Welcome Mac McCarthy to St. Mark



We are excited to welcome John C. “Mac” McCarthy to the St. Mark the Evangelist family as Assistant Director of Liturgy. Mac enjoyed a successful career working with all

levels of federal, state, and local governments, including senior management experience. He has supervised large staff components, complex financial portfolios, and changing policies and programs while enhancing service delivery. More recently, he was Vice President of Property Development and Property Management at Brooks (formerly Brooks City Base), a mixed-use community in San Antonio, supervising property development, asset management and operations at the 1,200 acre campus.

Mac, along with Robert Martinez, Director of Liturgy, is charged

with the overall direction of liturgical ministries and planning all liturgical activities to ensure the integrity of the Church’s liturgical year, meets with families to plan and conduct funerals, coordinates art and environment, acts as liaison to visiting priests and trains Lectors of the Word for our parish. Mac and his wife Margo have been long time parishioners at St. Mark and both remain active in several ministries at our Parish.

**Welcome, Mac and
Congratulations!**

How Are We Doing?

By Kathleen Meade

How are we doing? This seems to be the question of the day! It is perhaps fitting that the Easter Season fell right in the middle of this pandemic. Christ presents us with the perfect example by giving up his life for us. He could do nothing more, and He would do nothing less. The ministry of Traveling Loaves & Fishes decided to follow His lead, always staying within the guidelines provided by the state, the city, the county, the archdiocese, and St. Mark the Evangelist. Quite a chain of command! Some fancy footwork was required in the beginning as regular food donations were pretty slim for a bit. Volunteers were able to keep to the schedule of food pick-ups with Chick-Fil-A, HEB's pastry and

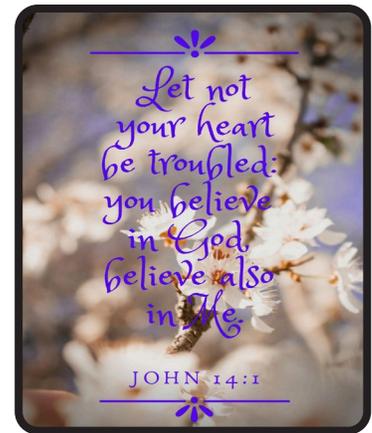


bread donations were more difficult since the bakery was closed. As things have settled down a bit, these items have returned to normal levels. The response from our volunteers has been overwhelming! They have continued their support staying-at-home with prayers and donations. The lunchtime sandwich preparation and delivery schedule has been followed without fail. Everyone is masked, gloved, and sanitized. The sandwiches are handed off at Catholic Worker House with no physical contact with the clients. Hot evening meals were exchanged for a more substantial sack meal and the same protocols are followed. The wheels on the Traveling Loaves & Fishes truck never stopped rolling! Smiles may be hidden behind masks and the human touch covered by gloves but TLF volunteers continue to fulfill

the ministry's mission of providing food with compassion and dignity. How is Traveling Loaves & Fishes doing??

The ministry is doing just fine!

Kathleen Meade is the Communications Chair for Traveling Loaves and Fishes at St. Mark the Evangelist.



Trusting in the Lord in Challenging Times

By Carole Thompson and Mary Louise Johnson

As it has been for everyone, the past few months have been challenging for the Women's Guild. During this time, we, along with all our fellow parishioners, have been trusting in the Lord and adjusting to our new "normal."

Like so many other ministry activities, our Spring events had to be cancelled. Even though our Scholarship Luncheon was not held, eight high school seniors will each receive a \$1,000 award. Our Trash and Treasure and Bake Sales have also been suspended for the time being.

During this time, our members have been keeping in touch by telephone, texts, and emails to check on each other and to offer words of



encouragement. We have also been joined in prayer for each other and those in our parish family.

At times such as these, we remember when Jesus, during the calming of the storm at sea, said to the apostles, "Why are you terrified? Do you not have faith?" (Mark 4:40) So, we are hopeful and await the day we will share the Eucharist again with one another.

We are looking forward to another year of serving the community of St. Mark the Evangelist.

Carole Thompson is the President of the St. Mark Women's Guild and Mary Louise Johnson is the 1st Vice President of the St. Mark Women's Guild.

For this reason...

By Diane Maes

I love my fellow humans
I love them with a passion!
So for this very reason
My groceries I will ration!
The Lord says Love Thy Neighbor
And I truly do.
So for this very reason
I will share my toilet tissue!
But please don't be offended
If I don't give you a hug
'Cause for this very reason
We might give or get the "bug"
For now let's keep our distance
We'll meet I don't know when
And for this very reason
We'll live to touch again!

Jesus Christ, King of Heart and Home

By Blake R. Tamez

Over the past few months, we have been required to worship 'in place' as domestic churches are under quarantine. We pray that our digital resources such as livestreamed Masses and catechetical videos were a blessing to your families during this experience of physical separation from our parish community. After this time of trial, we can rejoice in the Lord and the opportunity we have to encounter Him once again in the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. As our community, and indeed the whole world, continues to reel from the effects of the pandemic crisis; it is our duty to double-down in prayer and beseech the continual guidance and protection of God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. As we begin to gather for prayer once again, I would like to point out some ways in which our homes can continue to develop as mission outposts and sanctuaries of God's Kingdom. It is essential that Jesus remains the King of our hearts and homes as we face the challenges and opportunities ahead. May all of the graces that we receive through the sacraments never be taken for granted and may our homes be worthy places to pre-

serve those graces and to strengthen our faith in God!

One practice that is highly recommended by the Church is the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours (or Divine Office) is the Church's official and public prayer that flows from the Eucharistic liturgy of Holy Mass. It includes psalms, hymns, and other prayers that help us to direct our hearts and minds to God and to keep them in sync with the Church's liturgical life. There are many apps, books, and websites (such as www.ibreviary.com) that can help individuals and families begin to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

Another beautiful family practice is the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This involves an at-home ceremony in which an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is placed in a prominent place as a touchstone of devotion for the entire family. The image reminds everyone that Jesus Christ is truly the King of the Universe and therefore is the King of every Christian home. After the image is enthroned, families are encouraged to celebrate the day with a festive meal! Look into this devotion and consider doing an enthronement on the upcoming Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19.

The Kingship of Christ is best accompanied by the Queenship of Mary. Begin weaving the daily rosary into your family's life of prayer and look into resources for making a Marian Consecration. Many of our staff and parishioners are currently in the midst of 33 Days to Morning Glory, a book preparing us for Marian consecration of June 20, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Look into getting a copy of the book for you and your family and making the consecration together! We pray that some of these ideas can help re-ignite the fire of faith in your homes or strengthen the devotion already burning.

Check out these websites and articles for more information on all of the above practices and how they can enrich the life of your domestic church:

www.liturgyofthehours.org

"Enthronement of the Sacred Heart: The Spiritual Anchor of the Domestic Church" by Matthew Karmel at www.onepeterfive.com

www.marian.org

Blake Tamez is the Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries at St. Mark the Evangelist.



Congratulations to the Class of 2020

St. Mark the Evangelist Staff and Community would like to congratulate all our graduates of the Class of 2020. They have sacrificed so much this year due to the pandemic. They were not able to finish their last year of high school with their friends. Missing out on lifetime memories, such as prom to graduation parties, award ceremonies and banquets. (All of those experiences that are so important to the culmination of their last year in high school.) We know that even though they missed out on them they will be able to celebrate safely soon. We wish them all the blessings in the coming college years and can't wait to see them again soon when they visit us during their summer break.

Preparing for First Eucharist at Home

By Rita Cabello



Even though we are not able to meet weekly during this difficult time, our children along with their parents continued to work on their preparation at home during quarantine. Families were given packets with a variety of projects. These packets consisted of The Stone Soup Story and Recipe, Moses and the Burning Bush Story and craft, Grandma's Bread Story and Recipe, and a Banner to decorate for their First Communion.

Here are some of the pictures we have received from the children who have been working on those projects. We are so happy and proud of them for their hard work.

Grandma's Bread



Made by: Jayden Leija



This classic story teaches important truths about Eucharist, intergenerational relationships, death, and the importance of tradition in our lives. Young Mario, saddened by his grandmother's unexpected death, is delighted when his mother bakes Nonna's special Pane de Pasqua (Easter Bread) as a way of bringing her memory to his First Communion celebration.

The Stone Soup



Made by: Alexander Barrett

The Stone Soup story revolves around a clever man with a charismatic personality who can get people to help him when their first instinct is not to help. This is the aspect of the story that folklorists have focused on.

Two Jesuits come to a farmhouse, but only the children are home. The Jesuits, who are hungry, convince the children that they are not begging for food, but in fact they are self-sufficient as they have a stone that makes soup. They tell the children that they are in need of fire, a pot, and some water, and that the stone will do the rest. Finally a truly fabulous soup has

been made through their generous contribution as a community.

Moses and the Burning Bush Craft



Crafted by: Ethan and Owen Etter

The story begins as Moses is shepherding his father-in-law Jethro's sheep in the land of Midian, he is witness to a burning bush on Mount Horeb. When Moses approaches the bush, the voice of God calls out to him to remove his sandals in the presence of holy ground. God explains to Moses he has a plan for him to save the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and lead them to the Promised Land of Canaan. Moses is doubtful of his ability to do this at first and asks God who he should tell the Israelites has sent him. God answers with the famous line of "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Rita Cabello is the Children's Ministry Coordinator at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Happy Father's Day!

Loving God shine your light and grace upon fathers and all father figures in our lives. St Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus we ask your blessings upon them.

Amen

Staying Connected During COVID-19

By Velma Spruel Williams

Friday, February 28, was the first time I felt the new rules of the pandemic affect us as we started the Final Stations of the Cross. Deacon asked that we space ourselves by the Archbishop's Decree. For years, my friend Esther and I walked together the Way of the Cross, but we couldn't anymore. It felt so different right away, and we knew that our lives had changed. This is where the journey began. That was the last day we were able to "gather" in our Sanctuary without restrictions. Yes, life changed, and the way we interact with each other remains changed.

I was determined to stay connected and to reach out to all members in my prayer groups which I accomplished through email and text messaging. Thanks to the

hundreds of contacts I have, I was able to pass along the latest news and information from our Pastoral Staff. As for my Prayer Shawl Ministry, our members continued to provide emergency Shawls/Lapghan items for people in need of prayer, which Father Kevin blessed.

Together with our several prayer groups, we have prayed the Rosary daily and continue to do so. COVID-19 kept us close; we continue to pray for our parishioners, family members or friends that contracted the virus. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to pray for all those who have requested prayer intentions, surgeries, chemo, hospice, diagnosis of unexpected disease, etc. It makes us feel that we joint together as "One Body" and pray for healing for each other. Thank you for allowing me to

pray for you and with you.

So, as we continue on this journey together, we know that there is still much to come, most of which we have no control over, but we will take this journey united in our faith that Jesus is with us along "The Way." When there is only One Set of Footsteps in the Sand, we know that Jesus is carrying us safely in His healing and loving arms. Peace be with all of you, my friends. Thank you for your prayer petitions, for all those we have and will continue to offer our combined prayer petitions.

On this, "My/Our Journey"...let us stay safe and stay well. God bless and keep you, and those you love. Amen.

Velma Spruel Williams is the St. Mark the Evangelist Women's Guild Prayer Ministry Lead.

"Hope Through Music" Strikes a Chord

By Jonathan Bassett

It was some time in the latter part of March when I was reading a message that came through the ACTS distribution list. As it often occurs, the individual was asking for prayers. In this case, the writer was increasingly saddened by the way the Coronavirus was sweeping across our country and through our community. A day or so later, another message came, this time originated from the Women's Guild. This note expressed the same sentiments as the previous message, but added the sorrow of not being able to come together as a faith community because of the restrictions on gatherings.

Well, over the next several days, messages like these kept coming. Messages from the ACTS membership, the Women's Guild, the Knights of Columbus, or a direct

message from a friend. With each one my heart grew heavier. Heavier at the loss of community, our faith community, something we cherish at St. Mark the Evangelist.

One night I awoke with an idea. Is there a way to help our St. Mark



community feel more like we are one body even though we are separated by social distancing? With the blessing of Fr. Kevin and strict adherence to the social distancing protocols, the Social Distance Band was formed. From there it was a beautiful collaborative effort by Geoff Boggess, John Lorenzo, Ron Tutt, Trey Tolle, John Boggess, and myself.

The project name: **Hope Through Music**. Scripture readings were selected, along with accompanying songs played by our group. Each of us 8 feet apart as we played. It felt great, even though there were no handshakes, high fives or big hugs. It was so rewarding seeing these individuals come together in aid of our St. Mark community.

As the segments of songs were distributed, there were many kind words sent in return. Messages that portrayed us as something special. The truth is, we are just average people allowing Christ to do His work through us. It was our honor.

Jonathan Bassett is a member of the ACTS community and the Knights of Columbus at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Stewardship

A way of life

Time -- Talent -- Treasure

Christian Stewardship—By God's Grace

By Harry Verhiley

As Catholics, we hold the responsibility to promote a Christian lifestyle. That lifestyle is lived one day at a time and our actions influence both Christians and non-Christians alike. The reason why we sometimes fail with this endeavor is because we think too much of ourselves and too little of Christ. We, too often, ask - what's in it for me? Or, how little can I do and still be a Catholic? The focal point of these questions is on the self. Instead of starting with the self, the focal point should be on Christ. If we start with Christ, recognizing his selflessness, we now ask – how can I unite with him? What more can I do? or how much more can I give?

This is a different approach to life compared with what we have learned from the world.

The world's teachings infer that our life experiences must equate to equality, that is, that life's give and take must be evenly balanced. Or, as commonly expressed in our culture, the scales should tip in our direction – so we get all the gusto we can out of life; which supposes that we

should get a lot and give little. The Christian way of life is not a lifestyle that allows us to grab at whatever we can possess. It is one that sees God as the source of all that we need, so whatever comes our way is a gift from God. God knows our needs, and we are told to seek first His kingdom and all that we need will be given to us, and so much more.

To live this way of life is difficult. Truly, it is impossible if we try it on our own. Only by God's grace can we be good Christian stewards. For us to live God's way of life we must unite with him. This means we must recognize that God is the giver, and we are the receiver. God's grace is given to us freely; it is an unexpected gift, and it helps us to live on God's level, not that we are equal to God, but rather we live God's life because we possess his Spirit. The entire collection of books in the Bible expresses God's grace to humanity—it is all that God wants to give us. It is one long love story of God pursuing humanity, constantly making efforts to draw us closer to him. It is a story of a generous Giver and generations of children (who respond differently to the generosity of the Giver). How

has our generation responded to God's generosity? How will our generation compare with others? How should we respond to God's generosity? Mother Teresa said we should do ordinary acts with extraordinary love. By simple ordinary means Christians grow in likeness to Christ, by living Christ-centered days, daily. Even experiences that do not appear Christ-related, such as: doing our best to put up with the struggles of the day, small irritations, annoyances, inconvenience, interruptions, aches and pains. There are many undetected opportunities to grow closer to Christ and his suffering. The fact is that we must obey in little offerings, day by day, before we are able to obey in big offerings. Our obedience unites us with Christ because Christ was obedient to our heavenly Father, even obedient to death. Obedience to death seems extreme; yet, John Paul II said that Jesus is the norm of Christianity, not the extreme, but the norm. Therefore, we should strive for Jesus' level of selflessness, compassion, service, and sacrifice. This is the norm of Christianity, this is not some radical craziness; rather it is a day-to-day way of life. It is His way; and within the core of our true being to respond to His command, "Follow me." The command of Jesus is in a sense a challenge.

Article from www.diocesefwsb.org

ARE YOU READY!

It's Summer Time!

Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy time away, but remember that when you are away, St. Mark continues to operate, and we still need your support. Why not set up your recurring contribution today.

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Brancon & Christine

Meiners

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

JUNE/JULY 2020

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

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8am, 10am, 12pm,
2pm (Spanish) & 5pm
Monday 8:15am & 6:30pm
Tuesday 6:30am
Wednesday 6:30am & 8:15am
Thursday 6:30am & 8:15am
Friday 8:15am

Holy Days

8:15am & 7pm

Eve of Holy Day

7pm

Communion Services

Monday 6:30am
Tuesday 8:15am
Friday 6:30am
Saturday 7:30am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4-5pm

Adoration

Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-9pm
(*last hour of adoration is from 8pm-8:45pm)

He said to them, "Go into the whole world
and proclaim the gospel to every crea-
ture..."
Mark 16:15



Our mission:
TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS
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