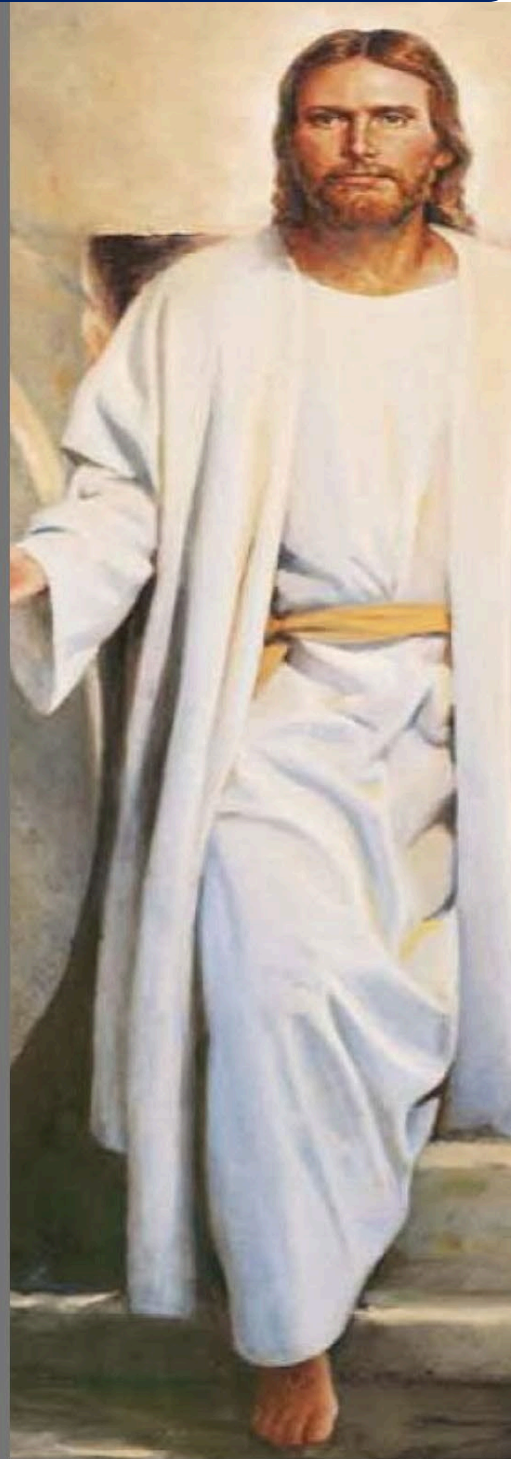
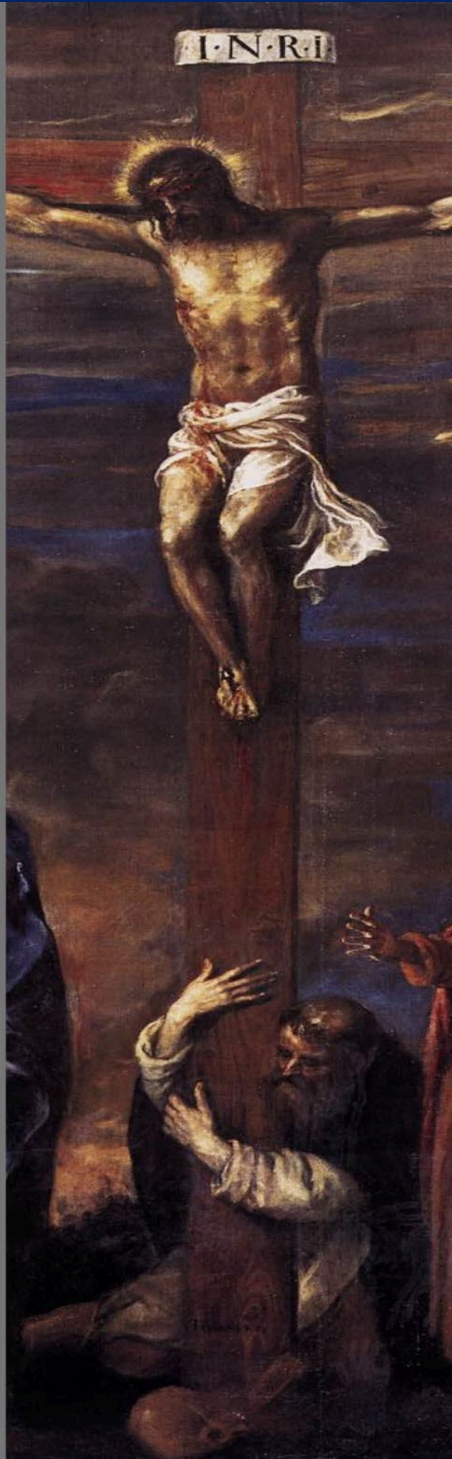
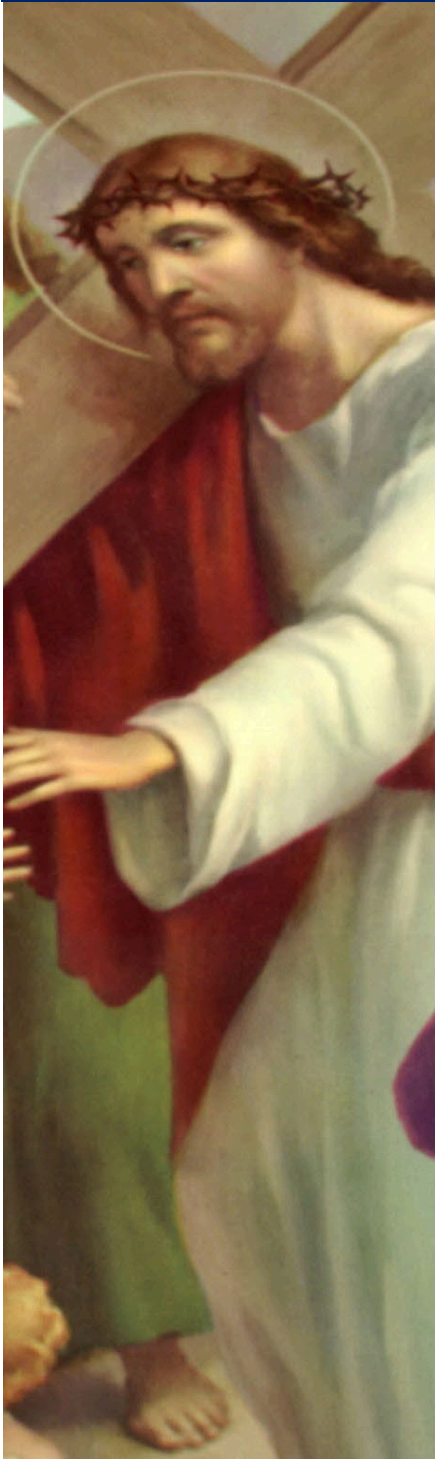


The WINGED LION

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

APRIL 2020



Are You In Need Of Spiritual Direction?

by Jochelle Demmer

The ministry of Spiritual Direction is time set apart from the world with a spiritual director/guide to discuss God's actions in one's life. Through the Holy Spirit, the seeker and the director discern God's direction for him/her.

The values one can gain in spiritual direction are assisting in listening to God's voice within their life, growing in knowing God and self, becoming aware of God's presence in all aspects of daily life, and deepening one's prayer life and communion with God, among others.

If you are experiencing a new sense of God in your life, feel distant from God, have a desire to deepen your relationship with God, spiritual

direction would be something you may want to explore.

A typical spiritual direction session would be 45 minutes to an hour of your time, every 2 weeks or once a month. All spiritual directors have been in training from 1-3 years



and seek continuing education for this ministry. Most spiritual directors do not impose a fee, however, any type of love offering is accepted and appreciated.

Spiritual directors are available to meet with you here at St. Mark. You may contact (leave a message) any of the following spiritual directors to schedule a session or for further explanation.

Ann Kemper 210-861-2116
akemper@stmarkevangelist.com-
(Bilingual)

Jochelle Demmer 210-827-5741

jochelledemmer@gmail.com

Maria Rodriguez 210-861-0266

maria8972@hotmail.com-
(Bilingual)

Ligia Garcia 210-449-1411

ligiagpa@gmail.com-(Bilingual)

Suzanne Boggess 210-269-0517

suzboggess@gmail.com (Recovery)

Leticia Huerta 210-393-8050

letty.huerta@gmail.com(Bilingual)

Bill Cox 210-215-1445

billcoxhomes@gmail.com (Recovery)

Vance Kane 210-449-5626

vancekane@gmail.com

Fidelio Guerrero 210-365-9477

fguerra@gvvc.com-(Bilingual)

Berta Sokol 210-849-2871

bertai61@hotmail.com-(Bilingual)

*Jochelle Demmer is one of the
Spiritual Directors at St. Mark the
Evangelist.*

What's in a Name? A Lot...We Have Found

By Velma Spruel Williams

Without many parishioners who visit our table knowing the history of the Small Faith Ministry, we have had many questions regarding the name: Thursday Morning "Small" Faith Group. Questions such as, "why do you have small faith?"

Well, we do not. Our faith is very strong, and so is our commitment to serving God and His people.

When I joined the Ministry in 2008, I was told that the group began, during the "Renew" period of the church in the 1990's. St. Mark's Group was established in 1991. The membership in these "small" break-out groups would meet in people's homes. Thus, the word "small" described the "size" of the groups...



not their faith. When the church allowed these small groups to meet on church property, they kept the name!

Now, in our efforts to invite new members, we have received approval from pastoral staff and voted to remove the word "small" as many visitors to our Ministry Fair tables or readers of our articles in the bulletin are confused as to what the group

does, or they confuse us with other semester style groups, who meet for a specific number of weeks. We meet all year.

In the past we had as many as 25+ members. Today, our group is much smaller, as the original members have moved away, and recruiting is not easy. So we are inviting new members to join us. What we do prepares us for the weekend

Masses by using our study materials. We cover the two readings from the Bible, the responsorial psalms, and the Gospel, which are in our study guide, and other materials provided in our pamphlets. They are reflections on the readings and Gospel. This allows us to discuss what the readings and Gospel mean to us in a round table setting. Everyone gets to speak. It is very enlightening. After our meetings on Thursday morning, we are prepared for the weekend with the knowledge of what we will hear during Mass. We will have had the chance to ask questions and discuss in our class. We have fun and are inspired in learning something new every week and in hearing the Word of God spoken in our midst.

Come join us!!! All are welcome.

*Velma Spruel Williams is the
Thursday Morning Prayer Group
Ministry Lead.*

Seminarian Rafael Becerra at St. Mark

By Robert Martinez

St. Mark the Evangelist is pleased to welcome Seminarian Rafaél Becerra, a student at Assumption Seminary, who will be collaborating with the Liturgy Department this semester as part of his formation.

Following is his bio:

"I'm Rafaél Becerra, a Seminarian at Assumption Seminary who is studying Theology at Oblate School of Theology for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. I am from Tepatitlán, Jalisco, México. I am 37 years old, and come from a large and beautiful family. My father José is 70 years old and retired, and my mother Agustina is 68 years old. We were ten children, four boys and six girls: Juan Carlos, Moisés, María Angélica, Lorena, Ana Rosa (who is my twin sister), Gabriela, Patricia, and María Guadalupe. Moisés died in 2003. Juan Carlos and José Francisco live in Madison, Wisconsin. All my sisters live in Mexico. I have 22 nephews and nieces and four grandnephews.

I have a bachelor's degree in



International Business from the University of Guadalajara and a Master's Degree in Politics and Public Administration from ITESO (Jesuit University of Guadalajara). I worked for the government for about ten years in my city and in the Governor's office. I produced a TV Show at Maria Visión, which is a Catholic Channel in Latin America and had two radio shows in Guadalajara. I created a young movement through the country named "Dilo Bien" (Say

it right), which defends life, family, justice, and peace. I felt the call from God when I was 31 years old. At that point in my life, I considered myself very successful, and I thought that I had responded to everything God asked of me. But, I asked him, "What else do you want from me?" Finally, I felt the call from God to become a priest; I gave up everything, including my fiancé, and

went to the San Juan de Los Lagos Seminary, which currently has 370 seminarians.

I was very happy, but again I was feeling a new call from God because the vocation is never finished. We always need to renew our answer. I asked God what else; I felt that He was calling me to go to the United

States. With my Spiritual Director's help, when I completed my Philosophy degree, I decided to renounce San Juan de Los Lagos Seminary. For some months, I was praying to God to help me, to open a new door, or to show me the place where He wants me to be. So, here I am, in San Antonio, which is the city where God has brought me. I have been delighted throughout this year at Assumption Seminary. We can only find fullness when we respond to what God asks of us. Only God is sufficient."

Rafaél also received his Ministry of Reader at Assumption Seminary. Bishop Gerald Barnes celebrated that Mass.

Please join us as we welcome Rafaél to St. Mark the Evangelist.

Robert Martinez is the Liturgy Director at St. Mark the Evangelist.



Always there to Lend a Hand



Traveling Loaves and Fishes is so lucky to have Alex Marsh and his dad Sam helping us by wrapping napkins on the forks we use to serve our homeless friends daily.

Without their help, it is very difficult and time consuming to make sure everyone gets what they need before

they receive their warm dinner. To have the utensil and napkin together facilitates serving our friends in need. Alex and Sam's help has been a blessing to our ministry. We not only appreciate the help, but we love seeing Alex's smile and his awesome disposition to help. We cannot thank the Marsh family enough for all they do for us and the many ministries here at St. Mark.

By LaVerne Dysart is the Traveling Loaves and Fishes Lead.



Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus

St Mark's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11th
9:30 a.m. on Church Grounds

Children 8 years old and younger are invited to participate in the egg hunt.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come out and join the fun, enjoy some refreshments and watch the kids find their treats!

Don't forget your Easter Baskets!

In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be held in the gym



St. Mark 2020 Scholarship Recipients

By Deacon Steve Marques



and the Knights of Columbus.

The selection process uses twenty evaluators, ten from each of the two organizations. The students are evaluated on speaking ability by a six-member team and on writing ability by six evaluators. Students are also evaluated on their school activities, community activities, such as scouts or part-time employment, and church activities.

Applicants had their choice from two essay topics:

1. What can be done to increase youth participation in the community of St. Mark the Evangelist?
2. Some presidential candidates are espousing socialism for the United States. Should this form of

government be adopted for the United States? Why or why not?

While some points are allocated for academic performance, the greatest emphasis is placed on church activities.

This year's Women's Guild recipients are: Kaitlyn Byers, Mikaela Foley, Anabelle Perry, Sydney Pearson, Madelyn Skloss, Jacob Wilson, Abby Heye, and Tristan Gonzales.

The Knights of Columbus Recipients are: Sarah Huggins, Julia Solis, Keith Van Winkle, Delaney Rayner, and Justin Leal.

Normally ten scholarships are awarded. However, highly successful fundraising by the Women's Guild permitted that an additional three scholarships be awarded this year.

Once again our youth have demonstrated why we are so proud of all the youth of our parish.

Deacon Steve Marques is the Scholarship Committee Lead.

The competition was strong as students from nine different area high schools applied for scholarships from the St. Mark Women's Guild

ministry of St. Mark the Evangelist?

Sent to Serve: A Teen's Stewardship Journey

By Sophia Frederick

My family and I have been members of St. Mark for over 15 years. I was two years old when I started coming here, and, I can remember our whole family has given of their time in one way or another.

I have been volunteering at St. Mark since fourth or fifth grade, when I was old enough to be allowed to. I am now a Junior at Johnson High School and still volunteer as much as I possibly can. When I first started volunteering for Traveling Loaves & Fishes, I felt that I found something that I would want to be a part of forever. It is a beautiful

ministry, helping the less fortunate than I have a warm meal at the end of their day. Meeting the people I serve helped me see the world in a completely new perspective. These



people are so humble and thankful for anything that we can give them. I feel so warm and fulfilled when we are able to make a little bit of a difference in their lives. Other

than Traveling Loaves & Fishes, I volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has given me a greater work ethic and has given me a better perspective on how much a house

can change a person's life.

Through these ministries and others like Children's Liturgy, I have been given a better understanding on life and have become closer to God. I have fallen in love with volunteering in my church because it gives me an amazing opportunity to make a difference in my community and my own life. I have learned to appreciate what I have been fortunate to have and to be humble. I have seen how the church makes a difference in people's lives. My hope is that more young people my age would want to see how volunteering through a church can make a difference in the world and their life.

Sophia Frederick is a member of our St. Mark the Evangelist Youth.

Called and Gifted by Jesus

By Blake R. Tamez

Lent has been a privileged time to reflect on the significance of baptism and what it means to walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ, one who has been called to walk in the footsteps of the Master. As the catechumens and candidates have prepared for the Easter Vigil, so has the entire community had the opportunity to renew their sense of being baptized into Christ and living as a part of His body, the Church.

The deepening of our shared vocation arises from the conviction that Christ is alive! The celebrations of Jesus's resurrection from the dead and the sending of His Spirit challenge us to live in this truth: He is alive within us through the power of the Spirit, empowering us to continue His action in the world. And one manner in which these graces act in us is through *charisms*.

The Catherine of Siena Institute explains charisms as follows: "Charism" is the Greek word used

in the New Testament for 'favor' or 'gratuitous gift.' Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to give them power both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness for people. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, all charisms ought to be exercised in the service of God (CCC 2003)."

These charisms are a key part of St. Paul's experience and teaching in the early Church: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit... to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit (1 Cor. 12:4-7)."

"To each individual..." that means you and every baptized person you know! So, beyond being called to discipleship and mission, we are also gifted with the spiritual gifts necessary to carry out that call. But these gifts must be explored and discerned. And that is precisely what a small group in our community has been up to for the past few months! By walking through the

Called & Gifted Discernment Process we have been reflecting on God's action in our lives and learning about charisms.

As Sherry A. Weddell states in her seminal work *Forming Intentional Disciples*, "Our parishes need to become places where it is normal for adult Catholics to ask, 'What is God calling me to?'" And discernment of our charisms is a crucial step in hearing the answer to that all-important question.

For more information about charisms, visit www.siena.org. For charism discernment resources and opportunities within our own community, call (210) 494-1959 ext. 332 or send a message to btamez@stmarkevangelist.com.

May we be open to every gift that our Father sends us and glorify Him with our lives!

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

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join the St. Mark's parish community as we embark on a devotional path of reflection & repentance



Photo by Bethany Melendez

GOOD FRIDAY GATHERING
April 10, 2020 | 3 p.m.
Main Sanctuary

Followed by a Lenten supper and celebration of the Lord's Passion and Holy Communion

Holy Week 2020 Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday, April 5

Regular Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 9 - 7:00 PM - Main Sanctuary

Good Friday April 10

Living Stations of the Cross

Lenten supper 5:00 PM Community Center

The Lord's Passion and Communion Service

6:00 PM Main Sanctuary

Easter Vigil Mass April 11 - 8:00 PM

Main Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 12

Regular Mass Schedule Main Sanctuary

Supper Club for Summer Camps: A Swanky Success Story

By Madonna Gil

On February 15th, guests walked into the Community Center and were transported to a swanky 1920s supper club. Gold lined the walls as silhouettes danced in their flapper dresses. Tables were dressed in their finest feathers and bowties. A golden paper moon bedecked in all its art deco glory provided opportunities for partiers to stop and pose for the press. The dreamy stage was sparkling with stars and clouds. The smooth sounds of Lyle Bird's melodica and trumpet filled everyone's ears as yummy appetizers and "Prohibition punch" filled their mouths. While munching, attendees were encouraged to peruse and bid on the 65 silent auction items that were on display.

The Emcee extraordinaire, Jonathan Bassett, welcomed everyone with clever prose:

*"Welcome, welcome one and all
Standing proud and standing tall
Looking handsome, looking dapper
What a peach, what a flapper."*

While this whole scene sounds like a grand party, the purpose

behind the party was even grander. Each place setting told the story of a teen whose faith was strengthened by attending a summer camp. These summer programs are weekend/ week-long events that include lodging, food, and an experience that is priceless. Marie Philips, a current middle school student, and Lauren Bassett, now a young adult, both gave tearful testimonies about how summer camp gave them a relationship with

Jesus and a larger sense of community. Marie said, "When I got home, I was thinking of how I was going to search for more of God's love, but God helped me realize that His Love was there the whole time - it's always been there, now I just love him back."

Sadly, many students are unable to attend these life changing events because of the monetary cost. The goal of the evening was to raise money that would solely be used as scholarships to help families who cannot afford these expensive programs. Students who worked the event as servers were awarded a stipend to apply toward a summer event.

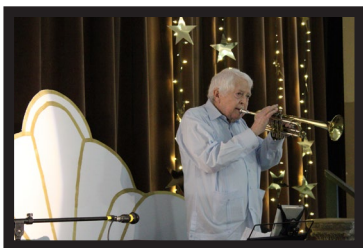
This was truly a community

effort. Lyle Bird and eight singers offered their talents to create the mood of an exclusive jazz club. The Women's Guild provided appetizers and desserts, the Knights of Columbus were busy at work cooking perfect steaks, and several other ministries purchased tables and donated silent auction items. After all the steak was enjoyed and all the silent auction items were won, the youth ministry was able to raise a significant amount of money for scholarships for future campers. Long time core member and supporter Zack Aoki shared "So glad we supported this event! The

food and service were terrific! It felt like a professionally catered event and the kids were great servers. I hope this fundraiser becomes a yearly event!" Thanks to

each and every one of you for taking part in this event and making it a success. Your generosity will help form our young church and build them up for a lifetime of discipleship.

Madonna Gil is the Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry at St. Mark the Evangelist.





St. Mark the Evangelist Welcomes

Brad & Jackie Clarkson

Joseph Martinez & Paula Ramirez

Robert & Diana Stephens

Rebecca Felber

David & Itzayana Gonzalez

Kathleen Palmer

Jaime Carney

Patrick Peterson

Sasha Gonzalez

Niki Nguyen

Jane Wilhelm

Enrique & Rebecca Bernal

Enrique Bernal, III



At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. The readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much. What's more, these readings give us wonderful guidance on just how to make this grateful response.

Ezekiel the prophet speaks God's own words to us. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord." Our God wants only goodness for us. He wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. He has promised He will do it, but only if we allow Him. He will not force His way into our lives. That would not be loving and God is Love itself. We must invite Him in. We must make room for Him by making Him THE priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him.

How can we please God by putting Him first? St. Paul's letter to the Romans gives us good instruction. "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you." To be "in the flesh" means that we allow our own selves — our whims, our pleasure, our comfort-seeking — to determine our daily decisions. To be "in the flesh" is to spend our time, talent, and material gifts primarily on ourselves. When we are in the flesh, we leave no room for the Spirit of God to fill our thoughts, our hearts, and our souls.

The disciplines of Lent and the disciplines of a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to "the flesh." The sacrifices we make

in a particular way during this holy season and every day when we truly embrace a stewardship way of life are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary — they are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God. In fact, the more we allow God to take over every aspect of our lives, the freer and more joyful we become.

Our loving God is always ready to renew His Spirit within us whenever we find ourselves led astray by the temptation to selfishness. The Gospel passage from John recounts Jesus' raising of His friend, Lazarus, from the dead. In Jesus' poignant reaction to the death of Lazarus and the grief of his sisters, we see once again how closely our God identifies with us and all of our sufferings and burdens. His tenderness and compassion teach us that we can safely surrender our lives to Him knowing that He will care for us. His raising of Lazarus from the dead demonstrates His power over all things, even death itself, reminding us that it would be foolish not to surrender to such an awesome God!

As we journey ever closer to the powerful days of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and be truly pleasing to God.

Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants.

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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

The
WINGED LION

APRIL 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
OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL GOD'S
PEOPLE BY WORD AND ACTION.



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