

# The WINGED LION

JUNE/JULY 2021

## A MESSAGE from Msgr. Kevin Ryan

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Dear people of St. Mark Parish,

From March of 2020 to this day, all of you have been so co-operative in compliance with the guidelines and instructions received from our Archbishop Gustavo Garcia Siller. This complying has kept all of us safe and healthy at our Liturgical celebrations. Thank you for the part you played during this time.

The guidelines have changed and will be effective on Pentecost Sunday. You will find those changes elsewhere in our website and emails.

The Archbishop requests is that we continue to wear masks at our Liturgical celebrations until further notice.

My request to each one of our parishioners and visitors is that we abide by that request. That we respectfully be considerate of people close to us by wearing our masks and keeping our distance, and that we follow the guidance and direction of our greeters, hospitality ministers and ushers. These assistance and kindness are deeply appreciated during this pandemic.

God bless you,

*Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan*

# How have the pandemic restrictions affected your faith life?

By Sophia Frederick



The pandemic restrictions have affected my faith life in a multitude of ways. Since being restricted to my home I do not have the ability to physically be in Mass. I am

unable to receive Holy communion while streaming Mass at home. I am unable to be as involved in church related activities as I was Pre-COVID. Some of these activities were Habitat for Humanity, Traveling Loaves and Fishes, and Children's Liturgy of the Word. Due to the pan-

demic, I cannot attend Adoration and devote that time to God. It has been very difficult to stay away from my church community through this time. While COVID restrictions come with many negatives, there are many positives as well.

Through the restrictions I have found more time to speak to God through prayer and build a stronger relationship with Him. I always believed that I didn't have much time to pray everyday due to my busy schedule. Then, the pandemic forced me to slow down and stay home, I realized how important it is to stop and give your time to God. God is the one that has given me this time on earth, it is only fair to give some time each day to him. Through these private times I have with God, I feel complete and fulfilled in a way that

is indescribable. I am full of confidence and an overwhelming love for Christ. He has always been with me I have used this time at home to connect with Him and thank Him.

The pandemic restrictions have enabled me to slow down and appreciate all He has done for me in my 18 years of life. Every day is a new blessing that He has given to me and my family. His blessings are everywhere in my life and the pandemic has helped me to recognize and appreciate them. My faith life has flourished despite these pandemic restrictions; I plan to continue my faith journey with the same enthusiasm throughout my life.

*Sophia Frederick is one of the Women's Guild Scholarship Recipients.*

## Congratulations St. Mark Confirmandi

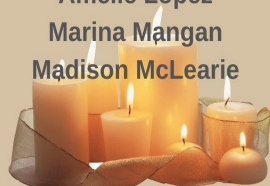
Isabel Aguillon  
Daniel Alvarado  
Tori Bland  
Addison Carrillo  
Brady Busenlehner  
Connor Danet  
Makayla De La Paz  
Luisa DeLeon  
Briseida Diaz  
Addison Dickson  
Alexandria Easley  
Lucas Enriquez



Pedro Espinosa  
Mandy Flores  
Isabella Garcia  
Lauren Garza  
Robert Glassmann  
Ariana Gonzalez  
Isabella Jacobs  
Julian Karreman  
Andrew Leavitt  
Amelie Lopez  
Marina Mangan  
Madison McLearie



Allyson Nasib  
Sheyenne Neely  
Antonia Neuner  
Zachary Ohlenforst  
Vitor Padilla  
Alina Quinones  
Clark Robertson  
Diana Rosas  
Gianna Sanchez  
Timothy Shapovalov  
Kenneth Suarez  
Daniel Wang  
Mason Bixby



The Lord continues to bless us with new hope through the enthusiastic witness of our young church! Our community celebrates with the recently confirmed teenagers who have professed their faith and received the sacramental graces to make Christ known in the world. These young people continue their journey of faith with the support of their sponsors, catechists, and the entire faith community of St. Mark. Please join us in a renewed resolve to lift them up in prayer and support them in their growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us thank God for his many gifts and the wonders he will work through the witness of our young church!



*Congratulations  
Jorge Cabello on your Diaconate Ordination*



# Congratulations Graduates!



Jonathan Bitter	Kate Holzmänn
Catherine Buley	Jedi Kane
Diego Cabello	Maggie Leavitt
Fabiola Cepeda	Joe Marsh
Jacob Czajka	Garrison Mangan
Sophia Frederick	Sydney Narvid
Roberto Guerrero	Kyle Patton
Anna Harrington	Matthew Tobar
Kenneth Hernandez	Nicholas Wilson
Lillian Hernandez	Josiah Yuker
Katelyn Herring	

**CONGRATS 2021 GRADUATES**

The St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church community and staff would like to congratulate our 2021 graduating seniors. This group of individuals had to endure many challenges and losses this year, ending their high school career during a pandemic. This year was far from normal, missing out on lifetime memories. They were able to make the best of this school year with the tools they had and excelled. Their hard work and dedication have paid off and they are all ready to continue their plans for the future. We wish them good luck and continued blessings, and we pray for protection and success in their future endeavors. We will miss seeing them around campus, but we can't wait to see them back here at St. Mark during their school breaks.

**Way to go Seniors!**

## Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

*Please update your Membership Information*

- Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?
- Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).
- It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.
- Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?
- If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct.

The Church Office number is (210) 494-1606.

Thank you for your help!



## God's Olympians

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST VBS 2021

SPACE WILL BE LIMITED CALL ( 210) 494- 1606 EXT.320

JOIN US AS WE LEARN ABOUT

GOD'S OLYMPIANS. THE SAINTS.

DISCOVER THEIR STORIES. THEIR STRUGGLES AND THE STORIES OF JESUS THAT INSPIRED THEIR LIVES.

July 12-16  
9 AM - 12:00 PM

Crafts

Scripture!

REMEMBER —  
YOU, TOO, CAN  
BECOME ONE OF  
GOD'S OLYMPIANS!

Games



While at a conference for pastors, I heard someone address the audience with, "Do not think your job is to go about changing the world. Your job is to go about testifying to the truth that the world is already changed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ." I was stunned to hear what I already knew: God is God, and I am not. All the work that I do amounts to very little in the face of what God has done. And yet, my little actions can have such a big impact when it is God working through me.

Jesus stunned crowds with His authoritative teaching and his miracles. They were amazed saying, "He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." It seemed that He was in control of everything. Of course, He was.

Often times we fall into a trap of thinking that we are the key to success in the actions of social justice, peacemaking, and community

building. We think the walls will fall down if we are called away to journey elsewhere. We have succumbed to the lie that it is all due to us, and that God played only a minor role. We forget that God is bigger than that and His plan is always better than ours.

A good steward allows Jesus Christ to exercise His authority in our lives. We give of ourselves freely and work to grow the gifts that have been entrusted to us, but we also submit to His will as to how those gifts will impact the world around us. We do all this knowing that His plan has a beginning and an end. The end has already been determined. We are working in the between times to make the journey reflect more fully the reality of His love.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS Everything Stewardship Reflections for the Journey.*

## WELCOME

**A warm welcome to  
our new members**

**Christopher Espinoza**

**Hector and April Esquivel**

**Pasha and Mitra Kermani**

**Larry and Marcia Caston**

**Christopher and Cristina Gamez**

**Michael and Theresa Mullen**

**Clarke Ehrlich**

**Charles and Adriana Campbell**

## Help Needed!



By Maria Rodriguez



The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mark the Evangelist is in desperate need of volunteers to help in our office during the week. We have changed our schedule to fit our volunteers' needs. Our new office hours are Monday and Friday 12 noon to 2:00 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 am to Noon. This volunteer position will be best fit for retired adults who will have the time to help us during the week days. During the pandemic we have continued to safely serve our clients. We haven't experienced any issues, and we will continue following safety protocols to keep us safe and still be able to serve people in need. We are not open to the public; all help is

done through phone calls and email. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am we have a drive thru food pick up, where our clients safely receive their groceries. We invite you to pray about it, ask God to guide you in your decision, and ask him to let you know if this is your call. We are in dire need of help. Please consider helping our ministry so we can continue our call from God. Please contact Maria Rodriguez at (210) 494-1606, ext. 342 or email us at [svdpsa.stmark@gmail.com](mailto:svdpsa.stmark@gmail.com).

*Maria Rodriguez is the President of the St. Vincent de Paul ministry at St. Mark the Evangelist.*



# Team Work Makes the Dream Work

By Madonna Gil

Hello readers, my name is Madonna Gil. I am one of the youth ministers here at St. Mark and if we have never met, I would love to change that. Please stop by the youth ministry office and Blake, Maritza, and myself would happily tell you about our programs and answer any questions.

Every summer, we take some time to reach out to the community to see who may be interested in volunteering with youth ministry. Because of the fog created by these past 15 months, I realized that many of you may be unaware that youth ministry is still active in your parish. This month, I decided to write an article about the joys of being a core member in youth ministry, but I realized, the best way to describe it was with the words of our current core members. We are actively seeking adult core members for our various programs that occur on Wednesday evenings, Sunday afternoons, and Sunday evenings. Go to our website ([www.stmarkym.com/core](http://www.stmarkym.com/core)) to see all of the opportunities or contact us for more information. Please take a moment to read what our amazing core members think about volunteering in youth ministry.

## Megan Byers

My experience as a teen at St. Mark was shaped by the adults who were involved as Core Members; their love, consistency, and witness to the faith. I wouldn't know or love the Lord without their constant support throughout my life, and I want to provide that same supportive community for the teens now.

## Allen Shreffler

I have always enjoyed working with teens and young adults, that's why I volunteered as a Confirmation class small group leader. Working with the youth provides me additional motivation to learn more about my Faith within a given structure. I find Confirmation helps

me to have a better understanding of the building blocks of our Catholic Faith. So, it is a win-win for the Church and for me.

## Kamille Valencia

The team makes me feel welcome and respects my thoughts as a new volunteer. It does take time, but it shows your children your commitment to their faith development and there are blessings in that. I cherish the things the kids share, their insights, questions and thoughts. I'm surprised how quickly some kids have friended me. It is an honor to be a trusted adult they feel comfortable confiding in.

## Zack Aioki

My experience with youth ministry strengthened my Catholic faith, revived my spiritual life, introduced me to faith-filled Catholics and provided me with confidence in the future of the Church. Christ calls us to spread the Gospel. The Church calls us to be holy. Youth ministry provides those opportunities by guiding teens who are becoming more aware of who they are, body and soul. Because each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made, I encounter God each time I meet with the teens. More often than not, God speaks to me through them, reminding me of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit that I need to work on and to give thanks for those that I feel comfortable using. I am also blessed to be

surrounded by adults that inspire me to be better and smarter about my faith. Finally, there is a great sense of accomplishment when a senior in high school is leading a retreat and you remember her as a sixth grader too shy to share her thoughts. All one can do is praise God and acknowledge that all things are possible. Having said that, those moments are not possible unless people hear Christ's call to feed his sheep.

## Scott Byers

For me, there have been so many benefits to being a catechist, I almost can't count or list them all, but here are the main reasons I became a catechist and the main benefits I have experienced from the decision.

As a father of 4 children, it was important to me to make sure that my children grew up with a firm foundation and a basic understanding of the Catholic faith in which my wife and I were raising them. I first said yes to being a catechist when my oldest daughter was in the 3rd grade. I, with 2 moms, taught that class and moved up with our kids through the rest of elementary school, into the Edge for 3 years of middle school, and then kept going with the Life Teen program for high school, and that's where I have been hanging out mostly for the past decade or so.

continued on next page.....



**ST. MARK YOUTH MINISTRY IS SEEKING**

## 40 MORE ON CORE!

If you are an adult interested in serving the youth in our community, please contact us for more information on getting involved as a core team volunteer.

**FOR DETAILS: CALL (210) 494-1959 OR VISIT [WWW.STMARKYM.COM/CORE](http://WWW.STMARKYM.COM/CORE)**

## 40 More on Core! continued...

I was invited to attend an 8-session class on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. This got me in touch with a hunger for the Catholic faith in which I had been raised and personally stirred up feelings that made me feel I was ill-prepared to answer any deep questions about the Catholic faith that my own kids might ask. So, I entered a 2-year program for Catholic Lay Ministers at the Oblate School of Theology to learn as much as I could to better

prepare myself for those questions.

Since then, I have felt it was my God-given mission to make sure that as many young people and adults are given the opportunity to have this same fire enkindled in them from learning about the Theology of the Body and how our bodies are the key to understanding God's love for us; His desire that we love Him and love each other; and how Jesus and Mary are our guides to growing in relationship with God

through receptivity and humility.

Now, as long as I have breath within me, I will be involved in opportunities for people to learn how to fall in love with the God who made them.

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

## St. Mark's Habitat House # 26 Complete

By Bill Faucher

St. Mark the Evangelist house number 26 is complete!

Thanks to a very generous parishioner, funding for this home was provided as a gift. This house would not have been built this year without that beautiful gift. If they are reading this know that the Tin family is very appreciative.

Construction started in January and ended on the 17th of April. It was lengthened by a week due to Snowvid and was done even though building teams were limited to 15 due to Covid. There were always enough dedicated

and Leo and Nancy Forget for their food contributions. Many parishioners helped with the food by donating



gift cards and food items, too. Regrettably this was Velma's last year of being in charge of providing us meals... every Friday and Saturday for 15 to 16 build days for 10 years. She is AWESOME! Her dedication to this ministry

kept things going for us and many on the Habitat for Humanity staff. That is a big legacy to fill. If interested in doing this next year starting in January, please let me know.

Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to help build this home. We had many chilly days to work and working with a mask wasn't always fun. Smaller work teams made the jobs a little more challenging but you persevered. You did it though!

The Tin family is from Myanmar and at least one of them was present every Saturday of the build. Their two children love the house and have already picked out their bedrooms. If you are ever on Blanco near Nimitz

Middle School, stop by Thai Dee restaurant where Mr. Tin is employed. He brought some food on the last day that was tremendous.

You, the parishioners of St Mark the Evangelist, are really awesome. There is no other parish that gets together as we do every year to fund and to build a Habitat House. I am tremendously proud to be a part



of this parish and to head up this ministry. We are blessed, also, with a fabulous pastor, Monsignor Kevin Ryan. Even in this time of Covid he thought it important to keep this ministry going. Without his support, it wouldn't. I am looking forward to presenting Father Kevin with another plaque commemorating the completion of the build.

*Bill Faucher is the Habitat for Humanity Lead at St. Mark the Evangelist and the Grand Knight of the St. Mark the Evangelist Knights of Columbus #7613.*



parishioners from the parish to come and build. Special thanks go to Velma Hinojosa, Martha Mundy, Gloria Zarate and Pat Peak. Thank you also to Richard and Imelda Lee



# Women's Guild Serving our Community

By Carol Thompson

This past year was different for the Women's Guild, as it was for everyone. Because of the pandemic we were not able to participate in many of our usual activities, including not being able to meet in person, but we kept in touch via email and Zoom. At this point everyone is ready to start slowly working our way back to some of our activities as things improve.

We will be having our annual retreat in June and there will be more information about the retreat coming soon in the bulletin. We are also going to begin accepting donations for Trash and Treasure and the Book Sale. Someone will be available at Building #9 on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm beginning on May 11 to accept donations. We hope to eventually increase the number of days and will advertise any changes in the bulletin.

We also just completed a successful online auction to raise money

for our scholarship fund. This was our first attempt at an online auction, and many thanks go to Denise Wayman, Donna Specia, and Reba Schmidt for all their hard work to make the auction a success.

We do not know yet when we will be able to schedule any of our fundraising sales, but there be notices in the bulletin when dates become available.

Throughout this year we have continued to assist with cleaning the altar linens, preparing the church for the different liturgical seasons, and praying the Rosary every third Saturday of the month.

We are looking forward to an-

other year of serving the community of St. Mark's.

*Carole Thompson is the President Women's Guild at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

## Trash and Treasure



### We accept the following items:

Collectables, fine china, glassware, novelties, small appliances, kitchenware, holiday items, jewelry, scarves, shoes, books etc.

### We do not accept:

Clothing, analog TVs, furniture, or computers, text books or encyclopedias

## DONATE NOW

Donating your items will truly make a difference!

Drop off items at

**St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**West Campus Bldg. # 9,**

**1602 Thousand Oaks Drive**

**every Tuesday starting May 18**

**between 10am-12:30pm.**



For more information,

Contact : Carol Hamann 210-716-1744 or Nancy Forget 210-410-8589

Thank You! Sponsored by: Women's Guild

# It Is Never Too Early!

By Kathleen Meade

Lord willing – and if the creek don't rise! – the Traveling Loaves & Fishes Scarecrow will happily usher in Pumpkin Patch 2021. Plans are afoot to fill the month of October with the sights and sounds of the autumn season. A young teenager once began asking for a stereo system in February. His birthday was not until May. When his father pointed this out to him, he responded, "Dad! It's never too early to beg!" In the true spirit of this logic, the Pumpkin Patch organizing committee is beginning to assemble the staff necessary to put together the most sincere Pumpkin Patch in San Antonio. The Pumpkin Patch serves as the major fundraiser for Traveling Loaves and Fishes. The



ministry has suffered financially along with everyone else during the past year of COVID disruptions. All will not be resolved in October, but a successful Pumpkin Patch will go a long way toward keeping the TLF truck on the road. Volunteers will be needed to help with Family Night, the Pre-School program, the food truck, birthday parties, social media

publicity, and ticket sales. If you can see yourself in any of these roles, please contact

**Kathleen Meade at**  
**ksmeade@yahoo.com or**  
**(210)854-8223 or**  
**LaVerne Dysart at**  
**tlf.dysart@gmail.com or**  
**(210)488-3514.**

The Traveling Loaves & Fishes Scarecrow is extending his/her arms out to you, begging you to join in the fun. It is never too early!



TRAVELING  
loaves & fishes

*Katheleen Meade is the TLF Pumpkin Patch Coordinator at St. Mark the Evangelist.*

## ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

*The*  
**WINGED LION**

JUNE/JULY 2021

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

#### **Mass Schedule**

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

#### **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](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com) | 210.494.1606