

The WINGED LION

SPRING 2024

“Christ be with me, Christ before me.”

From St. Patrick’s Breastplate

St. Patrick’s Legacy of Faith

BY FR. DENNIS ARECHIGA

Oftentimes the feasts of saints that take place during Lent are muted due to the emphasis on the penitential focus of the season. One of the most beloved saints of our Church is St. Patrick, whose feast is March 17th, was the Archbishop of Armagh and is also known as the Apostle of Ireland. These excerpts are from Butler’s Lives of the Saints. Patrick was not born in Ireland but in Dumbarton, Scotland, just outside of Glasgow, on the river Clyde. He was of Romano-British origin. It is believed he was born in the year 389 “and that in about 406 he with many others was carried off by raiders to become a slave among the still pagan inhabitants of Ireland. There amid the bodily hardships of the bondage his soul grew marvelously in holiness.”

After six years he escaped from Ireland, probably traveling to France and eventually back

home. Patrick’s family hoped he would never return to the land of his imprisonment, but he began having visions and he heard “the voices of those who dwelt beside the wood of Foclut which is nigh to the western sea, and thus they cried, as if with one mouth, ‘We beseech thee, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more.’ Thanks be to God, he adds ‘that after many years the Lord granted to them according to their cry.’” Upon returning to Ireland, Patrick began his evangelization efforts that bore great fruit. “In 444, according to the Annals of Ulster, the cathedral church of Armagh, the primatial see of Ireland, was founded, and no long time probably elapsed before it became a centre of education and administration. It seems possible that Patrick died and was buried, in or about the year 461, at Saul on Strangford Lough, where he had built his first church.”

We can attribute the legacy of faith of the Irish people in a great part to the efforts of St. Patrick as we are grateful for our former pastors of Irish descent and the many Irish priests and religious brothers and sisters that have

shaped and continue to impact our Archdiocese of San Antonio. One of St. Patrick’s greatest legacy is his prayer entitled “The Breastplate of St. Patrick.” During this Lenten season, may this prayer resound in our hearts as we seek to have Christ dwell in every aspect of our being.

“May the strength of God guide me this day, and may his power preserve me.

May the wisdom of God instruct me; the eye of God watch over me; the ear of God hear me; the word of God give sweetness to my speech; the hand of God defend me; and may I follow the way of God.

Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ be after me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left, Christ in the fort, Christ in the chariot, Christ in the ship, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me.”

Fr. Dennis

Spring Retreat - Search

BY MEGAN BYERS

Back in October, I had the teens submit questions they have about the faith. A good portion of their questions were inquiring about the meaning of life. With these existential questions in mind, I prayed about how to address each question, along with the others about death, judgment, evil and suffering.

After planning a few Life Teen sessions to answer their questions about death, it was obvious that the annual Spring Retreat needed to focus on life. What is the meaning of life? What is my purpose? What if I miss out on what God has planned for me?

According to the Baltimore catechism our purpose is to know, love, and serve God; it is how we “gain the happiness of Heaven.” But that is probably the least helpful answer for someone who is searching for their unique purpose, their vocation, or specific calling in life. Probably even less helpful, but inspiring nonetheless, are the words from St. John Paul II at World Youth Day in 2000:

“It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness; he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is he who provokes

you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.”

The goal of Spring Retreat is not for our teens to leave with divine inspiration about their futures. However, the hope is that each of them leave knowing that God is moving in their lives: quietly and slowly. Definitely not as loudly or quickly as they expect or want, but hopefully they gain some level of confidence that the Lord is present. Not only is He present, but He is the inspiration and culmination of all their desires, questions, hopes, and dreams. He is present to them in the Search.

When they ask, what is my purpose? It is Jesus who gives them the bravery to ask the question. Simply, their purpose is to know love, and serve Him, but the answer they are searching for is far more intricate. It is Jesus who will guide them in their decisions about college and dating. It is Jesus who will walk with them as they struggle to achieve their dreams. It is Jesus who will rejoice with them as they graduate, get asked to prom, buy

a car, or enter the seminary. It is Jesus who will inspire their generosity and compassion to make this world “more human and more fraternal.”

Please pray for our young people. They are hungry for the love of Jesus, for truth, for their lives to have meaning. Please pray that they learn to turn to Jesus to satisfy their hunger and thirst instead of trying and failing to find satisfaction in the world.

Spring Retreat took place the weekend of March 8-10, 2024 at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville, Texas. Many of our teens preparing for Confirmation attend this retreat to grow deeper in their faith and build community with their peers. The date of the Youth Confirmation Mass is Thursday, May 30th; all are welcome to attend and witness the beauty of this Sacrament! Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette at 6pm.

Megan Byers is the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Join us in praying for our teens preparing for their Confirmation:

Kayla Acosta	Aiden Lepe
Mark Anguiano	Julia Marek
Sophia Bernal	Christopher Mayorga
Emrick Branco	Blake McMahan
Carter Busenlehner	Luke McMahan
Ryan Byers	Samuel Monteiro
Adrian Cantu	Trevyn Nasis
Josiah Cantu	Nicholas Ohlenforst
Matthew Cantu	Tyler Orwig
Benjamin Cook	Angelina Otero
Arianna Diaz	Jaylen Peña
Tommy Duelm	Marco Quiñonez
Kason Erdman	Christopher Ramirez
Mateo Espejo	Isabella Reilly
Arianna Garcia	Mia Reyes
Carina Garcia	Rafael Reyes
Gabe Gilson	Rebecca Rodriguez
Seth Gilson	Emma Schubert
Dean Glassman	Genevieve Schubert
Sara Gonzalez	Sebastian Skinner
Isabella Guerrero	Siena Skinner
Emily Kaman	Riley Smith
Mason Kennedy	Jonathan Tobar
Mariana Kienlen	Kamila Valencia

ST MARK YOUNG CHURCH

please join us for the

Sacrament of Confirmation

Thursday, May 30, 2024

6:00 PM

with Bishop Michael Boulette

In the Scout Hut & Beyond

BY ANA BALBOA

Founded in 1982, BSA Troop 500 meets at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in the Scout Hut (Building 3) from 7-8 pm. Troop 500 is a Scout-led troop. Meetings are held on Tuesdays (except the second Tuesday of

each month). As camping is a big part of Scouting, the Troop camps often, usually about 8 weekends a year plus a week long summer camp. We also have Wreath, Poinsettia, and Taco breakfast fundraisers.

Since 2000, 32 Scouts have earned the rank of eagle, with four more expected to earn the rank this year.

Scouting is available to youth ages 11 to 18, who have completed the fifth grade

or earned the Cubscout arrow of light.

Visit our website for more info: bsatroop500.org.

Interested in joining? Email our Scout Master, Mark Rayfield at markrayfield@att.net.

Ana Balboa supports Troop 500 who meet on the campus of St. Mark the Evangelist.



Seasons & Stewardship

BY SARAH TARRILLION

You may have noticed the Winged Lion you are receiving this month is labeled 'Spring' rather than 'March.' We promise you aren't seeing things. We are excited to share our official transition to seasonal newsletters, rather than monthly. This Spring Newsletter encompasses March, April, and May of this year. Following will be our summer edition (encompassing June, July, and August,) fall (encompassing September, October, and November,) and winter (encompassing December, January, and February.)

While this will require a bit of planning for submissions, we believe this decision is the best stewardship of time,

talent, and treasure as we strive to meet the greatest needs of our parish first. As you probably know, we were already producing duo issues in the summer months (June/July) and winter months (December/January.)

We have many platforms we use to communicate with our parish outside of the Winged Lion. Now is the time to stay up to date with our parish communications! Subscribe to our weekly bulletin and weekly emails. Follow us on social media. Check out the monitors in the Narthex of the church. Visit our website. If you can't find what you are looking for, we invite you to call our parish office and let us know.

Would you like to submit an article for the summer newsletter? It's never too early to submit content. We especially love to see your photos. You can send your submissions to starrillion@stmarkevangelist.com. Space is first

come, first served. We can't wait to see what you have to share with our community!

We are also working toward giving you the option to receive your newsletter electronically, rather than in the mail. We hope to make this option available before our summer edition, so keep your eyes peeled for more information on how to opt in. Until then, pray with us for the stewardship of our community, growing together, toward Christ!

A Prayer for Stewardship

Jesus. Teach us to pray. Help us to manage our time so that we can spend it with you.

Holy Spirit, fill us with your gifts. May we offer ourselves in sacrifice for our parish and for all in need. Father, give us generous hearts. Help us manage our finances and offer our first fruits to you. As your faithful disciples, we ask this for ourselves and Catholics everywhere, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LAVA LAVA
LUAU

VBS 2024

SAVE THE DATE! JULY 8 - 12

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RITA CABELLO
(210) 494-1606 EXT. 320

ST. MARK
CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL
FOUNDED IN 1960

St. Mark Catholic Preschool
SERVING CHILDREN AGES 18 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS OLD AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Now Enrolling
for
2024-2025
TUESDAY/THURSDAY
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Please call (210) 494-9282 for more information and to schedule a tour.
ENROLLMENT IS CONTINGENT ON AVAILABILITY.

45th Year

40 Days for Life

BY SHERRY BREWER

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
- Over 200 abortion workers converted
- Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside Planned Parenthood 2140 Babcock Rd 78229

Vigil hours: 7am to 7pm Mon- Sat

Local contact: Cindi Serna, 40DFL Coord. for San Antonio Coalition for Life 210-410-9424 or Cindi@SACFL.org

40 Days for Life started on February 14th and will end March 24th.

St. Mark's assigned day to pray was on March 9th this year, but there is still time for you to stand with our local community and help save lives in San Antonio.

Learn more . . . get involved . . . and sign up for prayer times by visiting the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/sanantonio

Sherry Brewer and her Husband, Joseph Brewer, lead the St. Mark Right to Life Ministry.



This spring Joseph & Sherry Brewer led our annual Baby Bottle Boomerang at St. Mark the Evangelist. Donations collected from this drive will help support the San Antonio Coalition For Life's programs such as their 40 Days for Life Campaigns.

Saturday Sheen Group

BY STAN HARMEN

Parishioners of St. Mark find holy means of keeping family together, bearing with each other in love, and focusing on the truth that outlasts mountains. The Sheen Group that just completed its 50-week program in February celebrated newfound unity in each other. They now want to pass on that gift starting April 13 with a new 50-week program. Consider finding the unity and joy they experienced in each other by enrolling with them. They meet at 9 AM each Saturday, listen together to a taped talk by Archbishop Sheen, break for refreshments, and then listen as each participant gets to share what they learned from the talk.

All graduates of the Sheen group will say one thing: the truth matters, and this version of catechesis enlightens, entertains, and brought us to a higher ground for family and unity. Where do you go to find the truth? Seekers in the faith can be bombarded with fake news, on-line trolling, and disinformation campaigns.

Be clear: subjective truth are statements that describe opinions and are only true for the person who makes the statement. Objective truth are statements that describe reality and



Archbishop Fulton Sheen with Pope John Paul II from fultonsheen.com

are true for all people. Jesus claims he is the way, the truth, and the life, and those who love and follow Jesus are on a mission to find, live and proclaim this truth. For the body of Christ, there is such a thing as objective truth and its mission has been for proclaiming and protecting this reality for 2000 years. Truth is real, but whose reality? Fulton Sheen has many funny, sad, true, and entertaining stories to share. Better, in the Sheen group we may share our own stories. In listening well, we recognize our truths embodied in others. Wow!

The Sheen Group together addresses basic issues, such as a philosophy

of life, role of conscience, and God's search for man, human freedom, and the choice between good and evil, "This day I set before you, life and good, death and evil."

Sign up by April 13th to join us on Saturdays from 9-10:30 AM in Christopher Hall, Room 201. There is a \$30 copying fee for each course manual. To sign up or for more information call Stan Harmen (210-495-4144) or Leydana Mathews (210-317-4403.)

Stan Harmen is a member of the Sheen Group at St. Mark the Evangelist.

VBS SUPPLIES NEEDED!

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND WE ARE GETTING READY FOR THIS YEAR'S VBS WEEK, THEMED LAVA LAVA LUAU. THERE ARE A FEW ITEMS WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS FROM OUR ST. MARK COMMUNITY.

WE NEED ASSORTED SILK FLOWERS, LUAU GRASS SKIRTS, LUAU PARTY ITEMS, TIKI LIGHTS, GREEN AND BLUE CREPE PAPER AND STREAMERS, EMPTY BOXES, EMPTY PAPER TOWEL ROLLS, STRAWS, PACKING TAPE, PAINTER'S TAPE, AND MASKING TAPE. WE ARE ALSO NEEDING SNACKS SUCH AS CHEEZ-ITS, TEDDY GRAMS, GOLDFISH, RICE CRISPY TREATS, VARIETY CHIPS, CHEX MIX, PRETZELS, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, AND SMALL WATER BOTTLES. THE SNACKS MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY PACKED FOR THEIR SAFETY. THANK YOU! 😊

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RITA CABELLO IN THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE.



KofC Wheelchair Mission

BY A BRIAN NELSON

St. Mark's Knights of Columbus Council 7613 and the American Wheelchair Mission wish to thank Fr. Dennis Aréchiga and the parishioners of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church for their generosity and support during our Wheelchair Sunday fundraiser. As of December 31, 2023, your giving amounted to \$36,532.

That amount allowed us to purchase 244 wheelchairs and affect the lives of 2440 people. This will allow children to go to school, adults to be able to go to work and the elderly, who may have been confined to get a bed for many years, to become mobile.

If you were not able to participate in our fundraising back in November, we encourage you to go online and make a donation. Just go to www.amwheelchair.org/donate. For "Campaign" chose Knights of Columbus and for "Organization" chose Council 7613. Please know that for every dollar contributed, 100% goes to the purchasing of a wheelchair.

All of your donations are 100% tax deductible. The American Wheel-

chair Mission is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Their tax ID number is 26-4571639.

A Brian Nelson is the Texas Wheelchair Assistant Chairman and a member of St. Marks Knights of Columbus Council.



Thank you to KofC Council #7613 and supporters for your hard work to provide Fish Fry Fridays for our community during Lent!

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

**"TODAY,
AS PILGRIMS IN
SEARCH OF HOPE,
WE CLING TO YOU,
RISEN JESUS.
WE TURN OUR
BACKS ON DEATH
AND OPEN OUR
HEARTS TO YOU,
FOR YOU ARE LIFE
ITSELF."**

-POPE FRANCIS

THE WOMEN'S GUILD TRASH & TREASURE SALE



ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

EVENT CENTER - BUILDING 14

1602 THOUSAND OAKS DR. SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

FRIDAY
APRIL 12
8AM - 3:30PM

SATURDAY
APRIL 13
8AM - 4PM

1/2 PRICE SUNDAY
APRIL 14
8AM - 2:30PM

Unbelieving Thomas

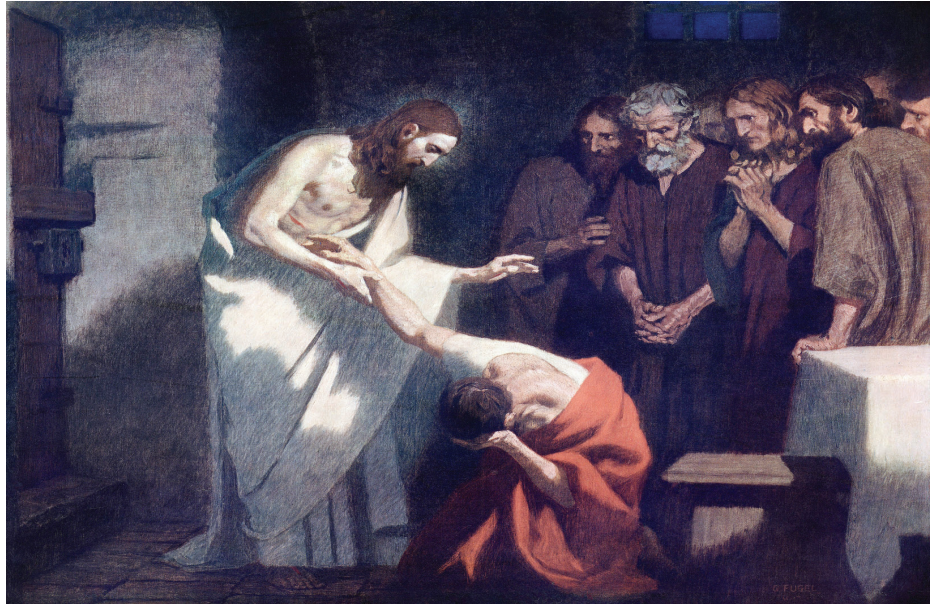
BY ANNA RESTUCCIA

The question of Truth flanks Christ's passion and victory over death. On Good Friday, Pilate demands Christ to answer "what is truth," a question which is answered and confirmed at His resurrection and appearance to St. Thomas in the flesh. Like St. Thomas, humanity has a strong distrust in anything that claims to be Truth, as the wisdom of the world warns against childlike faith, and instead champions self-defense with heavy skepticism.

After the rest of the apostles had seen and rejoiced in Christ's miraculous return from the grave, St. Thomas' first encounter with the risen Christ confirms the promises made by His Lord and His God. Rather than maintaining implicit faith, St. Thomas had demanded to see concrete evidence of His Lord's return, no doubt from past experience of deceit and disappointment.

The artist of this piece had a strong devotion to producing work that was honest as well as beautiful. Gebhard Fugel was a German watercolorist and avid visual ideologist at the turn of the 19th century. He was a pupil of the "Nazarene movement," a practice arising from a small group of religious artists in Germany in the early 19th century, who felt the highest artistic pursuits ought to focus all subject matter on topics of religious significance.

As a result of this mentality, his work was incredibly prolific and biblically attentive, producing a vast series of work showing all biblical scenes in a designerly, posterized style that would later be mimicked by the Nazi regime in its propaganda posters. Key features of this approach are strong, geometric compositions combined with impeccable anatomical understanding and perfect value control.



UNBELIEVING THOMAS
GEBHARD FUGEL, 1863 - 1939 | WATERCOLOR PRINT ON PAPER, 33'X25'
THE ROYAL DANISH LIBRARY

Fugel's take on St. Thomas the Apostle's return to the upper room is so delicately designed in composition, texture, and anatomical perfection. The dialogue of this interaction is almost audible with the intensely emotional body language of Christ and St. Thomas. The apostle's astonishment at realizing his folly appears to be overwhelmed by guilt as he hides his face, but Christ gently offers His open side to be examined as if welcoming restoration of belief as the remedy to shame.

Perhaps Christ's posture is meant to comfort and be fully present to Thomas,

as Christ understands the harm that the lies of the world have inflicted on Thomas' faith. These wounds and doubts overcame the apostle at Christ's death. The force that restores St. Thomas' shattered faith is His very Self, the Truth. He is exactly Who He says He is, His Word dictates reality. He is what the human mind longs to believe in, and is only too good to be true in the sense that humanity is undeserving. Yet it is true— Christ did die and rise for us, He is God, and has saved us from sin and death.

**From Diocesan Library of Art Curator
 Spring 2024**

2024
 ACTS
 GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH • 7PM

DINNER, LIVE MUSIC + SILENT AUCTION
 @ ST. MARK'S EVENT CENTER

\$100 PER TICKET OR \$800 FOR A TABLE (8)

BENEFITTING ST. MARK ACTS RETREATS

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

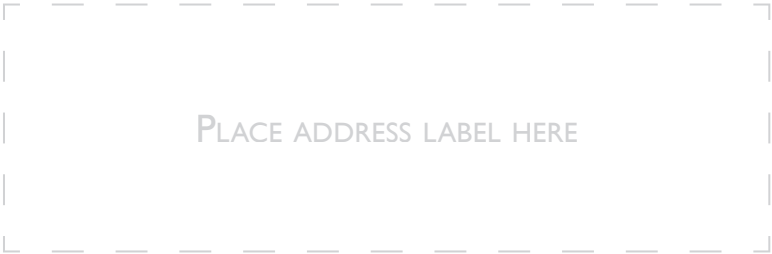
VISIT ST. MARK WEBSITE >> EVENTS
 TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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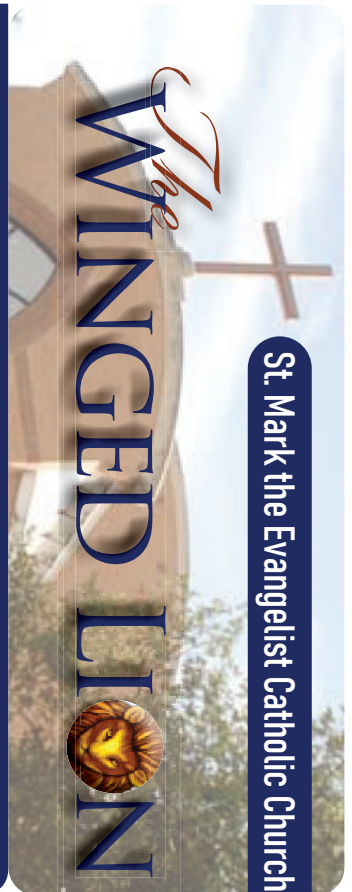


E-NEWSLETTER
COMING SOON

PLEASE STAY TUNED
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NEWSLETTER
ELECTRONICALLY.

The Winged Lion Publication Policy

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church reserves the right to publish article submissions and edit all submissions for form and content.



St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

SPRING 2024

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Aréchiga

Mass Schedule

- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, (liverstreamed) 12 Noon 2:00 pm (Spanish) 5:00 pm
- Monday 8:15 am
- Tuesday 8:15 am
- Wednesday 8:15 am, 6:00 pm (Day Chapel)
- Thursday 8:15 am
- Friday 8:15 am
- First Saturday Mass 9:30 am
- Holy Days 8:15am, 12pm & 6pm
- Eve of Holy Day 6pm
- Reconciliation
- Wednesday 5pm - 5:50pm
- Saturday 3:30-5pm or by appointment
- 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



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