

# ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

2021 Stewardship Guidebook & Directory

[www.stmarkevangelist.com](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com) | 210-494-1606





St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church  
1602 Thousand Oaks Dr.  
San Antonio, TX 78232  
PH: (210) 494-1606 | FAX: (210) 494-4957  
[www.stmarkevangelist.com](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com)

## STEWARDSHIP GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

Once again I have the opportunity to share this guide book and directory as a resource for every parishioner. This book serves as a catalogue of ministries, describing the many opportunities St. Mark's provides for you to become more connected to and involved in our parish community.

We live in an age where there are so many vehicles of communication—e-mail, text messages, social media, etc.—but many of us still prefer the “old-fashioned” way of the printed word. Besides listing the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all registered parishioners (unless they chose not to be included), this guide book is a valuable tool for our parish family, and it helps us in connecting with one another as family and friends of St. Mark's. It is a tool to help each of us mobilize for ministry, to be present to one another in crisis, and pass the good news (and bad news) that unites us in common joy and concern.

This book is also a tribute to the generous spirit of our parishioners, who make our parish alive and vibrant with faith. We thank all those who share their time and talent to make these ministries possible, and we invite all parishioners to join in these activities and embrace the opportunities we have to encounter Jesus Christ. We especially welcome new parishioners and anyone interested in participating in our parish life.

It is my hope that this directory will be of great assistance to you in communicating with each other in this wonderful parish. Communication keeps us in touch with each other and helps us to know one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Please take time to read and reflect on the importance of each ministry. Outreach is an important part of each ministry, which is part of the apostolic work of the Church and part of our mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action.

As we read about our ministries, I ask you to pray for their continued success, for an increase in members, guidance of the Holy Spirit and generous stewardship to sustain and grow our ministries.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, let us express our love for him by participating actively in the life of this parish family and the larger Catholic Church. Let us sink our roots deeply into this vibrant faith community and allow God to bear good fruit through us!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan".

Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan  
Pastor

*The mission of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church is  
to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action.*

## PASTORAL OFFICE

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday : 8 am-5 pm

### CONTACT

Phone: (210) 494-1606

FAX: (210) 494-4957

For after hours emergencies, call (210) 494-1606 and follow instructions.

### SUNDAY CHURCH OFFICE

Open before, during and after  
all weekend Masses

### CONTACT

Kathleen Bedingfield or Velma Hinojosa

Phone: (210) 494-1606, ext. 303

## MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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### WEEKEND MASSES\*

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am; 10 am; 12 pm (Streamed on YouTube)  
2 pm (Spanish); 5 pm

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### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday: 8:15 am

Tuesday: 8:15 am

Wednesday: 8:15 am

Thursday: 8:15 am

Friday: 8:15 am

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### COMMUNION SERVICES (Cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

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### HOLY DAYS\*

Holy Days: 8:15 am & 7pm

Vigil Mass: 7 pm

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 pm-5 pm  
Also by appointment

### ADORATION

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9 am-4:45 pm

\* Mass schedules may vary due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Contact the church office for updates.

# History of St. Mark's



*Founded 1976*

Starting with 325 parish families, St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church has grown to more than 3,800 registered families, with hundreds more attending regularly. Our community continues to grow and change and we remain the same welcoming, vibrant parish.

The formation of St. Mark's began in the spring of 1976 when Father Thomas Murphy accepted the responsibility of serving as the first pastor of the newly planned parish. Father Murphy was ordained in Ireland in 1966 and had previously served as the assistant pastor at St. Thomas More in San Antonio.

In June 1976, Father Murphy wrote a letter to the 325 families living within the boundaries of the new parish, requesting their help in selecting a name for their new church. St. Mark the Evangelist was chosen from the many suggested names.

Archbishop Francis Furey † formally established the parish as the 160th parish in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. St. Mark's leased space from the North East Independent School District, and the first Mass was celebrated in the Blossom Athletic Center on September 24, 1976.

Almost immediately, plans were initiated to construct a permanent church. The early community participated in selecting the design for the church and administrative complex. The groundbreaking was held in February 1979, with over 600 families registered in the parish. When the church building was dedicated the following

December, over 800 parishioners, priests and clergy were in attendance. The church building was designed and built to reflect the first community. The homelike atmosphere made of natural materials emphasized simplicity and serviceability.

Over the next nine years, Father Murphy served the community of St. Mark's with Theresa Berg as the pastoral director. This model of collaborative ministry was one of the first in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. During this time, the parish grew in spirit, physical size and population.

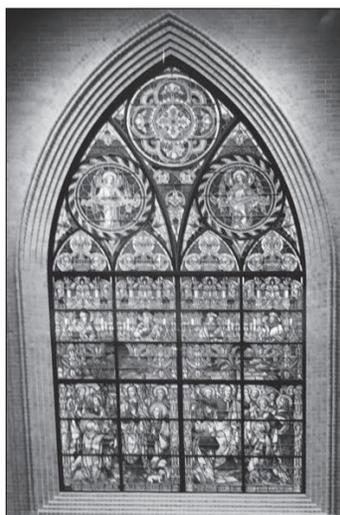
In 1981, a multi-purpose field house, garage and baseball and soccer fields were completed.

Much of the community activity of St. Mark's now takes place in the multi-functional community center built adjacent to the church. The dedication of this community center was held on June 30, 1985.

After serving for 12 years at St. Mark's and celebrating his 25th anniversary as a priest, Father Murphy was reassigned as pastor of St. Peter Prince of the Apostles here in San Antonio.

In 1988, Rev. Sean Garret † was assigned as our new pastor. Father Garret came to us from St. Helena's, where he was pastor for the first community in that area.

Father Garret was a native of Cork, Ireland. Father Garret also celebrated his 25th anniversary at St. Mark's. During his tenure at St. Mark's, Father Garret hired Fay Jackson to serve as pastoral



director. In November 1991, Father Garret transferred to serve in the Diocese of Tallahassee.

That same month, Father Kevin Ryan became the third pastor of St. Mark's. He was ordained in Ireland in 1970. His hometown is Mullingar. He had served the previous 10 years as pastor of St. Rose of Lima, which he founded in 1981 and where he built a community and church.

Father Kevin, as he likes to be called, brought with him a vision of parish, which closely resembled the collaborative style of ministry that had begun in 1976. By appointing a pastoral administrator, Dot Hamlin, Father Kevin established his vision of collaboration. A strong ministerial team is now serving the parish. This team represents the sharing of gifts of the laity and the clergy side by side.

The parish community had grown to approximately 2,600 families. It was during this time that the building committee (made up of parishioners who had been meeting since 1991) was able to fulfill their dream of building a new sanctuary. It was seven years from the planning and development to the completion in January 2000. Seating 1,500 individuals in its main sanctuary, St. Mark's has the highest seating capacity among Catholic churches in San Antonio.

In order for the new sanctuary to be built, a new site of 18 acres was found on Bulverde Road so that the ball fields could be moved. Over the next few years, with the hands of many parishioners, St. Mark's families built a concession stand, bleachers and timekeeper booths. Many families have spent time supporting the upkeep of the fields where the Athletic Association and its volunteers help the children and youth of our parish learn sportsmanship and Christian values.

As growth continued, Knights of Columbus Council 7613 realized their dream for a hall. Hand in hand with the parish, they built a two-story hall adjacent to the new sanctuary. Their gift of

the upstairs meeting rooms for the use of parish organizations and ministries is a sign of generosity and unity with St. Mark's. It was dedicated on June 11, 2005.

Two parochial vicars have served at St. Mark's: Father Greg Nevlud for 15 months in 2001-2002 and Father Effendy Liwang, MSC, from 2003-2006.

In 2009, St. Mark's community welcomed the completion of our new pipe organ. We commissioned the firm of Buzard Pipe Organ Builders of Champaign, Illinois, as the builder. The instrument's design encompasses three manuals, 35 stops and 43 ranks of pipes.

In response to the exponential growth of the parish community, St. Mark's acquired the property adjacent to the parish campus, located near the Highway 281 entrance (formerly Church of Christ). Purchased in 2013, the property added an additional 14 acres to our existing campus. This acquisition has allowed for the growth and expansion of our parish mission.

Although St. Mark's is a large parish, we are always ready to welcome new members and to encourage newcomers to take ownership in and serve the community as their gifts direct. We want to be a sign of the Kingdom of God in San Antonio's North Side and a light to our larger San Antonio community with our many ministries.



“This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at  
hand. Repent, and believe in  
the gospel.” Mark 1:15

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## STEWARDSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP ---

Our goal as a Catholic faith community is to provide the structure and activities to help each and every one of us grow into true disciples of Christ. As an aid on this journey of growth, we invite you to be **proactive in your faith and become involved in your community**. Many of our God-given gifts are squandered when we are content with merely being nominal Catholics, leaving those gifts unused.

Every member of our parish is challenged to live their Catholic faith to the fullest by reaching out to others and focusing less on one's self. We are called to share our gifts with your community so that they may become God's gifts to all. A true disciple has no other choice.

Below are some of the ways you can move beyond mere membership and start on the path to discipleship:

- Celebrate the gift of the Eucharist every weekend and Holy Day.
- Ensure everyone in you family receives the sacraments and pray together as a family on a regular basis.
- Give priority to spending time as a family.
- Offer at least one hour of service to your Church community each week through a ministry of choice.
- Tithe a proportion of your gross income in your offertory envelope each weekend, recognizing that your earnings are also a gift from God.

When we are generous, great things are possible. Meeting only minimum requirements creates very limited results.

## STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE

Stewardship is neither a secular term nor a code word for fundraising. It is a way of life—the wise use of all that we are and what we have, knowing that what we are and what we are becoming comes from God. God is the creator of our world. God has called us to be co-creators in the use of the gifts God has given us and to be responsible in the way we use those gifts. This is the basis for stewardship.

God has made us for God's glory. God has given us new life—God's love—through God's Son, Jesus. In that love, God empowers us through the Holy Spirit to reach out and look for the needs of one another and to build God's kingdom among us, God's family, the Church. God will one day ask us to give an account for the stewardship of time, talent and treasure that God entrusted to us. Stewardship starts not with the needs of the parish, no matter how important these are, but rather with the personal need of each one of us to return to God a truly grateful portion of our time, talent and treasure in thanksgiving for all the blessings God gives us. Stewardship of finance, for example, says that more important than the material need of the parish is the need of the giver to give.

A life of stewardship is a way of saying we belong to the Lord and to one another. It is:

- **An Act of Faith:** We profess that we belong to God and all that we possess is God's.
- **An Act of Trust:** We place our lives in God's loving hands and make God our treasure.
- **An Act of Worship:** We adore God as the giver of all good gifts.
- **An Act of Belonging:** We unite our offering with the rest of our parish family so that together we might care for the needs of one another.



# PARISH STAFF

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## PASTORAL OFFICE | (210) 494-1606

Pastor	Rev. Msgr. Kevin E. Ryan	Ext. 312
Pastoral Administrator	Dorothea (Dot) Hamlin	Ext. 311
Administrative Assistant	Debbie Hofstetter	Ext. 300
Director of Development	Mary Anne Votion	Ext. 345
Development Assistant	Monica Frederick	Ext. 344
Bookkeeper	Rich Mazzara	Ext. 319
Assistant Bookkeeper	Brenda Houchens	Ext. 313
Data Services	Laura Boren	Ext. 327

Deacons: Raul Adam (210) 646-7632; Larry Brisiel (210) 391-0636; Dennis Duggan (210) 881-9010; Gilbert Hernandez (210) 488-6296; Hipolito Huerta (210) 426-8304; Ramon Rodríguez (210) 862-2814

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## LITURGY OFFICE | (210) 494-1606

Director of Liturgy	Robert Martinez	Ext. 315
Liturgy Assistant	Mac McCarthy	Ext. 307
Director of Music	Joshua Frilling	Ext. 330
Assistant Music Director	Jose Gonzalez	Ext. 330
Sunday Receptionist	Kathleen Bedingfield	Ext. 303
Saturday Receptionist	Velma Hinojosa	Ext. 303

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## FAITH FORMATION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | (210) 494-7434

Director of Faith Development	Paul Vance	Ext. 326
Christian Initiation Ministry (RCIA, Catechumenate for Children), Quinceañeras & Spiritual Direction	Anne Kemper	Ext. 329
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Rita Cabello	Ext. 320
Administrative Assistant & Baptism/Childcare Coordinator	Maritza Shreffler	Ext. 333

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## YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE | (210) 494-1959

Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries	Blake Tamez	Ext. 332
Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry	Madonna Gil	Ext. 346
Administrative Assistant	Maritza Shreffler	Ext. 333

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## Physical Plant | (210) 494-9399

Facilities Manager	Johnny Melendez	Ext. 318
Team	Ron Aguirre, Benji Eusebio, Gloria Hernandez, Miguel Martinez, George Wetherill	



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St. Mark Catholic Preschool is blessed to have served multiple generations of families and thousands of children throughout the history of the preschool and are honored to be entering our 41st year! While some aspects have changes over the years, core elements of our strong foundation remain the same. Enriching components of children's faith, learning through play, and words of loving encouragement continue to be the standard of our program. We are bless to have two passionate teachers in each classroom while maintaining low student ration numbers. This provides more one-on-one time with each child helping to enrich their overall classroom experience. The loving environment of each classroom is designed to inspire learning through play, while providing an environment of comfort and predictability enhanced by a faith enriched daily routine.

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Children who are 18 months to 4 years old, as of September 1st , are candidates for the program. Families select a Tuesday/Thursday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, or Monday – Friday schedule. Our class times are 9:00-2:00.

You are invited to join the St. Mark Catholic Preschool Family as we proceed in mission with the church to share the good news of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action.

Give us a call, we would love to hear from program alumni.  
As a Little Lion you're part of a Legacy of spirited Lion's Pride.

Melanie Rutkoski, Director

Ext. 321

Valerie Cervantes, Administrative Assistant

Ext. 337

(210) 494-2968

*Prayer Line*

Daily 9am-9 pm

# FAITH FORMATION

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Adult Faith Formation Department seeks to enrich the lives of St. Mark's parishioners by facilitating conversion to God within each realm of human experience: affectively, intellectually, morally, socio-politically and religiously.

Guidelines for adult faith formation classroom instruction at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church meet the objectives of Roman Catholic Catechesis by:

- promoting knowledge of the faith;
- promoting knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments;
- promoting moral formation in Jesus Christ;
- teaching the Christian how to pray with Christ;
- preparing the Christian to live in community and participate actively in the life and mission of the Church; and
- promoting a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

The specific goal for St. Mark's Adult Faith Formation is to develop a transformative pedagogy for adult catechesis that reflects the spirit of the National Directory for Catechesis as well as:

- employs theology for engaging thought about God and faith;
- elicits a deep awareness of God's presence in one's personal story through narrative and Scripture;
- evokes a heightened awareness of and an assimilation to authentic conversion; and
- utilizes Transformative Learning Theory for educating adults.

Transformative Learning Theory ensures that instructors and participants:

- have accurate and complete information

and be free from coercion and distorting self-deception;

- are able to weigh evidence and assess arguments objectively, be open to alternative perspectives and become critically reflective upon presuppositions and their consequences; and
- have equal opportunity to participate, including the chance to challenge, question, refute, reflect and hear others do the same and be able to accept an informed, objective and rational consensus as a legitimate test of validity.

The preferred structural implementation of adult faith formation suggested for St. Mark's classrooms generally follows this breakdown:

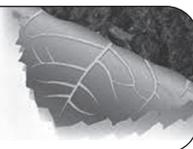
- General classroom instruction (50%)
- Small group discussion/reflection (25%)
- Larger group sharing/reflection (15%)
- Socialization/breaks (10%)

St. Mark's Adult Faith Formation Program is made up of several components, including:

- Sacramental preparation
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Catechumenate for Children
- ACTS retreats and prayer groups
- Spiritual direction
- Quinceañeras
- Bible studies and studies of the Catholic faith
- Criminal Justice Ministry
- Young Adults Community (18-35)

For more information, call the Faith Formation Office at (210) 494-7434.

**grow strong**  
in your faith



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS/CATECHUMENATE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process of initiating adults and young people of catechetical age (6 years and older) into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist (First Communion.) The Catechumenate for Children and Teens

here at St. Mark the Evangelist is a part of the RCIA.

The Canon Law of the Church promulgated at Vatican II dealing with the restoration of the Catechumenate of the Early Church, came into being in the late 1960's. In 1988 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called for this process to be implemented

In every parish in the United States as the way of initiation into the Catholic community of faith for all

unbaptized people of catechetical age, those baptized into another Christian tradition, and Catholics baptized as infants or toddlers who have had NO religious education nor baptismal catechesis and have not celebrated BOTH Confirmation and First Eucharist (Communion)

RCIA is a process of seeking, developing and enriching one's relationship with God, themselves, and the community of faith. It is a journey of conversion to God in Christ with a sponsoring companion to support seekers, pray for them and with them, witness to their faith and guide them along the Way. It is a process of forming disciples of Jesus Christ through a gradual, complete, and comprehensive mentoring in the Catholic way of life.

Those individuals preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist gather together as apprentices in the conversion process in intentional RCIA communities each week, with sponsors (children gather with parents) RCIA Team members, and the wider community at Sunday Mass to learn what it means to be and live as Catholic



Christians.

Various Rites are celebrated during this journey of faith. After a long period of prayer, study, and discernment, the initiation sacraments are celebrated-----all during the same liturgy -----in the presence

of the Catholic community at the Easter Vigil or at a Rite of Full Communion if previously baptized.

Movement through the process is determined on an individual basis.

For more information please call Anne Kemper at 210-494-7434, extension 329.

## SPECIAL NEEDS FAITH FORMATION

The Special Needs Ministry is a faith formation program for individuals of all ages (children and adults) from the parish community with special needs. The program is made up of two classes—one for beginning students and one for students ready for sacramental preparation.

Classes are individualized, and efforts are made to provide a companion for each student to assist the person in class. Multi-sensory materials are used to present the lessons, and each class is structured so that students know what to expect and are comfortable with the routine.

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The special needs class meets each Sunday during the 10 am Mass, with the Gospel reading for that Sunday as the focus of our teaching and presented in ways the participants understand. Our sacramental preparation students join their families at Mass just before Communion so they can receive Jesus in the Eucharist together.

For more information, contact Kay Parker at (210) 410-7105, Barbara Thabet at (210) 842-2946 or (210) 494-1606 ext. 320.

## CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Mark's provides faith formation for pre-school and elementary school children within our parish community. Our program is designed to support all families with children from age three through fifth grade in passing on our Catholic faith and in preparing their children to celebrate the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation for the first time. It is through a blending of classroom, family and whole community activities that the richness of our Catholic faith is shared and passed on to our children.

Families are asked to register their children for faith formation, celebrate the Sunday Eucharist as a family, participate in our parish events, and share their faith at home.

For more information, call the Children's Ministry Office at (210) 494-1606, ext. 320.

For information of children's faith formation for special needs children, please see page 11.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION (EDGE)

Faith formation is an intentional action that is integrated into the life of the whole person. This means that we are called to continue to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and in community with each other during every stage of life. Although parents are the primary educators of their children, youth ministry serves to accompany



families along their lifelong journey of discipleship. This is especially important during this age as peers gain greater influence on our youth.

Middle school Faith Formation aims to strengthen the students' knowledge of Jesus Christ in a way that creates an intimate relationship with him. The Edge program from Life Teen International is designed to speak to the physical, psychological, cognitive, relational, and spiritual maturation of middle school youth. The resources present Catholic teaching in a way that young people can understand.

Middle school sessions occur in small and large group settings throughout the year. Opportunities for retreats, summer camps, mission trips, community service, and group worship are also offered and encouraged to help the students grow in their faith community at St. Mark.

For more information call the Youth Office at (210) 494-1959 or go to [www.stmarkevangelist.com](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com).



## HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION (LIFETEEN)

St. Mark's high school faith formation programs are designed to offer students insights into their own faith life, show them that being Catholic is a full-time commitment and help them live out Christian values in their everyday lives.

LifeTeen is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church and leads all teens closer to Christ by providing resources and training that encourage vibrant Eucharistic celebrations and opportunities for teens to grow in their faith.

This mission is accomplished by bringing teens to:

1. the celebration of the Eucharist;
2. the teaching of Christ and the Church; and
3. an experience of being loved and accepted within the community.

LifeTeen is a comprehensive youth ministry program based on, focused on and directed toward the Eucharist. Each week at St. Mark's LifeTeen Mass (Sundays at 5 pm) and Life Night, high school teens gather in person or virtually to fully experience the greatest gift we have as the Catholic Church.

Teaching teens about the truth in line with the theology of the Catholic Church is how the program educates through creative Bible studies, discussions and personal experiences. Providing powerful liturgies for teens and their families helps them experience the power and love of Christ in the Eucharist, the Word of God and each other.



There are many events during the year and summer that teach our teens how to be good neighbors and lead others to faith in our Lord. Some of these events are Youth Spectacular and San Antonio Neighbors Mission Trip, LifeTeen Leadership Conference, Steubenville Youth Conference, Inspiration Tour and an annual Teen ACTS retreat.

For more information on St. Mark's High School Faith Formation Program, contact the Youth Ministry Office at (210) 494-1959 or log on to [www.stmarkevangelist.com](http://www.stmarkevangelist.com). Follow us on social media.

Like us on Facebook @StMarkLifeTeen and follow us on Instagram @stmarklifeteen.

For information on faith formation for middle school or high school students with special needs, please see page 11.

**For more information on St. Mark's youth programs, visit us at [www.stmarkym.com](http://www.stmarkym.com).**



# SACRAMENTS & SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION —

The saving words and deeds of Jesus Christ are the foundation of what he would communicate in the sacraments through the ministers of the Church.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church recognizes the existence of seven sacraments instituted by the Lord. They are the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist), the Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick) and the Sacraments of Vocation (Marriage and Holy Orders).

Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier.

-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

### BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*) and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." (CCC1213).

If you are considering celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, contact the Faith Formation Office at (210) 494-1606 ext. 333.

### CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

The Sacrament of Baptism, the Eucharist and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of

the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC1258)

If you are considering celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the Faith Formation Office at (210) 494-1606 ext. 320.

### EUCCHARIST

By the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood to form a single body. (CCC 1331)

For information on preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, contact the Faith Formation Office at (210) 494-1606 ext. 320.

## SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

### RECONCILIATION

Those who approach the Sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion. (CCC1422)

For more information, contact the Faith Formation Office at (210) 494-7434 ext. 320

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them. And indeed she exhorts them to contribute to the good of the People of God by freely uniting themselves to the Passion and death of Christ." (CCC1499)

For more information on receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, call the Liturgy Office at (210) 494-1660, ext. 315.

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## SACRAMENTS OF VOCATION

### MARRIAGE

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament. (CCC 1601)

To inquire about the Sacrament of Marriage, call the Pastoral Office at (210) 494-1606.

## PASTORAL CARE SERVICES

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### ANNULMENTS

If you are in a marriage that is irregular (one witnessed by other than the Catholic Church, you have been married and divorced and have entered a new marriage witnessed by other than the Catholic Church), St. Mark's may be able to help you come back to the sacraments.

For more information, call the Pastoral Office at (210) 494-1606, ext. 311.

### FUNERAL MINISTRY

Our prayerful sympathies go out to you on the loss of your loved one. The Liturgy Office is here to support you and your family in planning and preparing the Funeral Mass, such as selecting appropriate scripture readings and music.

For more information, call the Liturgy Office at (210) 494-1606, ext. 315.

### GRIEF MINISTRY

St. Mark's grief ministry, Journey Towards Healing, is designed to support individuals and families. This ministry reaches out to those in the parish who have lost a loved one through death. Our hope is that no one has to go through this painful

## HOLY ORDERS

The Archdiocesan Vocation Office is commissioned to provide resources and discernment opportunities that promote and cultivate vocations to ordained and consecrated life, especially diocesan vocations.

For more information, contact the Archdiocese of San Antonio Vocations Office at (210) 735-0553 or vocations@archsa.org.

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journey alone. Our volunteers have been called to this ministry through their own experiences of loss, while others recognize the need for programs to support those who are grieving.

For more information, call the Liturgy Office at (210) 494-1606 ext. 315.

## VISITING THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Extraordinary Ministers visit, pray and take the Eucharist to members of the community who are unable to attend Mass. Ministers are gracious and compassionate when bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. We serve the homebound in hospitals and nursing homes in our area.

Please call the Liturgy Office at (210) 494-1606, ext. 315, if a member of your family or a friend needs the Eucharist brought to them. Please also contact us if you would like to volunteer to be a member of this special ministry.





“A Christian Steward is one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord. Each member of the Church shares in responsibility for its mission; each is called to practice Stewardship of the Church. Christians are also called to look outward and to place themselves at the service of the entire human community, especially those who are most in need.”

US Bishops’ Pastoral Letter

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE TIME & TALENT —————

St. Mark’s parish community is blessed with more than 50 ministries that live out our mission every day. Below is a listing of all ministry contacts, as well as descriptions of our many ministries, so that you may consider how you can be fully involved in the life of our parish as we build the Kingdom of God together as brothers and sisters in Christ. After reviewing our ministries, we ask that you prayerfully discern what special skills and talents God might be calling you to share with St. Mark’s parish community. Through the gifts of time and talent of our parishioners and larger parish community, we are able to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

ACTS Core Team	Sharron Hanson	(210) 274-0819
ACTS Men's Prayer Group	Bill Cox	(210) 215-1445
ACTS Men's Prayer Group (Spanish)	Marco Banda	(210) 459-5627
ACTS Women's Prayer Group	Dahlia Zavala	(210) 494-3966
Adoramus Te Christe Group	Stan Harmen	(210) 495-4144
Alcoholics Anonymous for Women	Terri Washburn	(210) 213-8362
Altar Servers	Donna Montemayor	(210) 849-7039
Annulments	Dot Hamlin	(210) 494-1606
Art & Environment	Sharron Hanson	(210) 274-0819
Audio/Video Ministry	Jose Gonzalez	(210) 494-1606
Baptism Ministry	Maritza Shreffler	(210) 494-7434
Bible Study	Ann Swihart	(210) 615-9598
Boy Scouts of America		
Boy Scout Troop 500	Mark Rayfield	(210) 404-0772
Cub Scout Pack 500	Michelle Strottner	(210) 416-8763
Cub Scout Pack 657	Becky Bounds	(281) 686-9708
Bulletin & Newsletter Volunteers	Monica Frederick	(210) 494-1606
Caminando con Jesús	Rosy Ordonez	(210) 386-9154
	Omar Ordonez	(210) 896-4874
Caring & Sharing	Jan Williams	(210) 274-6275
Centering Prayer Group	Linda Monson	(210) 844-1516
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Clarissa Cabello	(210) 727-7762
Criminal Justice Ministry	Gerald Gaenslen	(210) 789-2409

CYO	Anthony Berlanga	(210) 722-1212
Divine Mercy Cenacle	Stan Harmen	(210) 495-4144
	Pat Crain	(210) 663-9960
Divine Mercy Cenacle (Spanish)	Lloyda Clucos	(210) 831-0403
Divorced & Separated Catholics Ministry	Ester Martinez	(956) 533-4279
En Camino	Berta Sokol	(210) 849-2871
	Patricia Ramirez	(210) 849-1400
Eucharistic Adoration	Alice McKinney	(210) 490-0291
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Sylvia Richmond	(210) 559-1310
Finance Council	David Zurbriggen	(210) 494-1606
First Saturday Prayer Group	Steve Marques	(210) 269-1339
Focolare "Works of Mary"	Jane Carter	(210) 396-8845
Girl Scouts of the USA	Ana Balboa	(210) 494-1606
Grief Ministry (Journey Towards Healing)	Robert Martinez/Mac McCarthy	(210) 494-1606
Habitat for Humanity	Bill & Kathy Faucher	(210) 496-7221
Hospitality Sunday	Marco & Claudia Banda	(210) 459-5627
Knights of Columbus	Bill Faucher	(210) 496-7221
Lectors	Lili Vasquez	(210) 834-2115
	Marge Dunlap	(210) 496-7445
Lectors (Spanish)	Mercedes Ramirez	(210) 325-0035
Library	Donna Baker	(830) 438-2495
	Alice Zoller	(210) 494-0304
Liturgy Team	Robert Martinez/Mac McCarthy	(210) 494-1606
Manna to Your Door	John & Judy Handrahan	(210) 323-2149
Meals on Wheels	Rich & Kit Miller	(210) 494-6323
Ministry to the Sick & Homebound	Robert Martinez/Mac McCarthy	(210) 494-1606
Monday Night Prayer Group	Pastoral Office	(210) 494-1606
Music Ministry	Joshua Frilling	(210) 494-1606
Natural Family Planning	John & Cathy Nix	(210) 695-8020
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Velma Spruel Williams	(210) 416-5563
Prayerline	Peggy Matcek	(210) 494-2968
Quilters	Pat Brookes	(210) 494-5832
	Wanda Hopson	(210) 844-6333
RCIA Inquiry	Deena Bird	(210) 491-3848
RCIA Ministry	Tom & Everlyn (Teague) Pardue	(210) 403-9985
RCIA Prison Ministry	Bill Schott	(210) 494-6717
Retrouvaille San Antonio	Keith & Leslie Weissenstein	(830) 612-2035
Right to Life/40 Days for Life	Cathy Nix	(210) 695-8020
Sanctuary Care	Gwen Byers	(210) 355-0379
Secrets of the Rosary	Stan Harmon	(210) 494-4144
Single Adults 45 Years +	Mary Anne Votion	(210) 494-1606
Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Veronica Davis	(210) 218-2175
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Maria Rodriguez	(210) 861-0266
Special Needs	Kay Parker	(210) 410-7105
	Barbara Thabet	(210) 842-2946
The Spirit & The Word	Carmen Frankel	(210) 954-4272
Teams of Our Lady	John & Carol Lawlor	(210) 347-2678
Thursday Morning Faith Group	Velma Spruel Williams	(210) 416-5563
Thursday Studies in the Catholic Faith	Don Cosgrove	(210) 710-0722
Traveling Loaves & Fishes, Inc.	La Verne Dysart	(210) 488-3514
Ushers	Robert Martinez/Mac McCarthy	(210) 494-1606
Welcoming Committee	Mary Anne Votion	(210) 494-1606
Women's Guild	Carole Thompson	(210) 535-7960
Young Adults Community (18-35)	Blake Tamez	(210) 494-1606
Young at Heart Seniors Club	Juanita Sanchez	(210) 276-0269

## ACTS

ACTS Missions spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ among Catholic communities by promoting, consulting in, facilitating and coordinating ACTS retreats. St. Mark's has the following ACTS retreat groups: Men's ACTS, Women's ACTS, Men in Recovery ACTS, Women in Recovery ACTS, Spanish Men's ACTS, Spanish Women's ACTS, and Teen ACTS.

Under the direction of the pastor, the ACTS Core Team supports, directs and guides the ACTS community in evangelizing as many parish members as possible to a communal faith experience.

For more information, contact Sharron Hanson (210) 274-0819.

## ACTS Prayer Groups

**Men's ACTS:** All men are invited to St. Mark's ACTS men's prayer group. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in Christopher Hall, room 201. Please join us for song, praying the Rosary and spiritual meditation/discussion.

For more information, contact Bill Cox at (210) 215-1445. For information on Men's ACTS Group (Spanish) call Marco Banda (210) 459-5627.

**Women's ACTS:** All ACTS sisters are invited to gather for prayer and fellowship the first Saturday of each month. Please bring your gentle spirits, kind hearts and beautiful voices. We ask returning sisters to bring their blessings journal.

For more information, contact Dahlia Zavala at (210) 494-3966.

## Adoramus Te Christe

Adoramus Te Christe is a contemplative prayer group where participants adore Christ by studying prayer forms and serve as engines of prayer for all the parish ministries.

For more information, call Stan Harmen at (210) 495-4144.

## Alcoholics Anonymous for Women

"We have been there. We can help."

Weekly women's-only AA meetings Monday and Thursday at 12 noon in Christopher Hall, room 201. These are AA literature-approved discussion meetings.

For more information, call Terri at (210) 213-8362 or visit [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

## Altar Servers

This is a special opportunity for young Catholics to become active in the Mass. Youth who have received their First Communion and completed third grade may serve. Altar servers assist the priest and deacon during Mass or special liturgies. The altar server must set a prayerful example for the congregation by their active participation in the Mass.

For more information, contact Donna Montemayor at (210) 849-7039 or email [donnarm12@gmail.com](mailto:donnarm12@gmail.com).



## Art & Environment

The importance of the liturgical environment is vital to good liturgy. This team plans and prepares the sacred space for the different liturgical seasons. The team is a group of gifted and talented people who are willing to understand the importance of environment and how it calls us to prayer.

For more information, contact Sharron Hanson at (210) 274-0819.

## Audio/Video Ministry

Known as the A/V ministry, this group assists the development office with setting up and operating the church's audio/visual equipment during services and other special events, organizing the A/V equipment and producing parish presentations/videos. For more information, contact Jose Gonzalez at (210) 494-1606. ext. 330

## Baptism Ministry

Are you interested in joining our Baptism Ministry? We meet once a month before the Baptism class to set up and present to the class.

For more information, contact Maritza Shreffler at (210) 494-7434, ext. 333.

## Bible Study

St. Mark's offers Bible Studies each year. They begin the Tuesday after Labor Day in September and end in March. The average length of Bible Study course is 20 weeks. The studies focus on the Bible, Catholic tradition, and Catholic Theology. The study groups meet on Tuesdays. There is a morning group and an evening group (for those who may work during the day). Each lesson is about two hours in length.

Lessons are done in three parts. Part one is done at home. It involves reading Bible Scriptures and the Catholic Catechism and answering lesson questions which take the participant deeper into the Scriptures. Part two involves watching video speakers to extend the lessons. Part three is participating in small group discussions where participants share answers to the questions in part one. The small groups become very close and find a safe place to share their faith journey.

For more information contact Ricki Brady (210) 264-6862 (Tuesday Mornings), Carolyn Hrcncir (210) 422-2255 (Tuesday Evenings).

## Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scout Troop 500 is a boy-led troop sponsored by St. Mark's. For more information on

membership or becoming an adult leader/volunteer, contact Mark Rayfield at (210) 404-0772 or markrayfield@att.net. St. Mark's also sponsors two Cub Scout Packs. Cub Scout eligibility is Kindergarten thru age 10 or 5th grade. For information on Cub Scout Pack 500, contact Michelle Strottner at mstrottner@gmail.com. For information on Cub Scout Pack 657, contact Becky Bounds (281) 686-9708.



## Bulletin & Newsletter Volunteers

Every Friday morning after the 8:15 am Mass, volunteers come together to "stuff" the bulletin with important announcements. Once a month, volunteers help label the parish newsletter and get it ready for mailing.

For more information or to volunteer call (210) 494-1606 ext. 344.

## Caminando con Jesús

This ministry, conducted in Spanish, is for people and groups who want to experience a process of individual and group conversion to Jesus, deepening in a simple way the fundamentals of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These groups, summoned and encouraged by Jesus, live a renewing experience in a climate of fraternal friendship.

For more information, call Rosy Ordonez at (210) 386-9154 or Omar Ordonez at (210) 896-4874.

## Caring & Sharing

Caring & Sharing serves the community of St. Mark's by providing a light meal for family and friends on the day of a funeral. Volunteers

prepare the meal, set up the reception area and clean up afterward. Volunteers and monetary donations are always welcome. Please consider joining this very rewarding ministry.

For more information, contact Jan Williams at (210) 274-6275.

## Centering Prayer Group

The focus of centering prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. It is an exercise of letting go; it is a silent prayer just being in the presence of God. We meet every Tuesday from 11 am to 12 pm in the library. All are welcome to come and see what centering prayer is all about.

For more information, call Linda Monson at (210) 844-1516.



## Criminal Justice Ministry

The Criminal Justice Ministry offers Kolbe retreats for offenders, spiritual visitation, Liturgy of the Word, Communion services, RCIA and Bible study in State prisons and the Bexar County jail. We also offer offenders and their families compassion, prayer and support. Contact us if you have a family member who has been or is incarcerated, if you've been a victim of crime or if you're looking for a way to serve your fellow man.

For information, contact Gerald Gaenslen at (210) 789-2409 or ggaenslen@gmail.com. For information specifically about RCIA or Bible study for offenders, contact Bill Schott at (210) 494-6717.

## CYO

St. Mark's CYO is a proud member of the North-

east Catholic Athletic Association (Zone II) and the Archdiocese of San Antonio's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Our organization serves north central San Antonio.

For more information, log onto [www.stmarkcyo.org](http://www.stmarkcyo.org).

## Divine Mercy Cenacle

The Divine Mercy Cenacle meets every Monday evening at 7 pm in Christopher Hall (2nd floor). Our cenacle is based on exposure to the Diary of St. Faustina and prayer.

For more information, contact Stan Harmen at (210) 495-4144 or Pat Crain (210) 663-9960.

## Divorced Catholics Ministry

Catholics grieving and healing from the loss of their marriages are invited to rediscover a deeper faith and relationship with God.

For more information, contact Ester Martinez at (956) 533-4279.

## En Camino

En Camino is a prayer group for ladies that gathers on Tuesdays to pray in Spanish. They open their hearts to different forms of prayer in response to the deep desire to grow in awareness of the presence of God in our lives. They are inspired by Psalm 25:4: "Make known to me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." These ladies keep each other company in prayer and pray in thanksgiving for St. Mark's parish ministries and for particular intentions of the world community. We invite you to ask your heart; perhaps God is calling you to come!

For more information, contact Berta Sokol at (210) 849-2871 or Patricia Ramirez at (210) 849-1400.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 8:45 pm. St. Mark's beautiful Chapel of the Reservation is situated off the main sanctuary where the faithful may easily pray in the presence of the

Blessed Sacrament. Some people choose to sign up for one hour, while others come by to pray at different times.

For more information, contact Alice McKinney at (210) 490-0291.

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, commonly referred to as Eucharistic Ministers, prayerfully serve the community of St. Mark's by distributing the Body and Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic celebration. Ministers should be active and full participants in the celebration with the understanding that they are leaders of the assembly. Ministers are scheduled for their Mass preferences on a rotating basis.

For more information, contact Sylvia Richmond at (210) 559-1310.

## Finance Council

The Finance Council is a consultative body composed of three to five persons that assists the pastor in the administration of church property and finances.

As co-stewards of temporal goods for the parish, Finance Council members must present a clear picture of parish goals and current financial information to parishioners on a regular basis (not less than annually).

For more information, contact the Pastoral Office at (210) 494-1606.

## First Saturday Prayer Group

The First Saturday Prayer Group is a group of women and men who gather on the first Saturday of each month in the Day Chapel at 9 am to pray the Rosary and share in a Communion service.

The appearances of Our Lady of Fatima in 1925 and her instructions to Lucy to pray five consecutive first Saturdays led to this special devotion. These prayers, when combined with other condi-

tions, result in special benefits promised by Our Lady. This ministry has been in our parish for more than 20 years. All are invited to participate.

For more information, contact Deacon Steve Marques at (210) 269-1339.

## Focolare (Works of Mary)

The Works of Mary, otherwise known as the Focolare, is a worldwide spiritual movement within the Catholic Church. Everyone desiring a deeper understanding of Scripture and the love of neighbor is invited to attend the meetings on the third Sunday of each month, when we explore the dynamics of living the words of Scripture pertaining to life, community, neighbor and love. In addition to monthly meetings, we also hold annual retreats for members and families.

For more information, contact Jane Carter at (210) 396-8845.



## Girl Scouts of the USA

In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship and power of girls together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong.

Girl Scouts helps girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation

for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

For more information about the local Girl Scouts (ages 5-17), contact Ana Balboa, parishioner and St. Mark's liaison to the area Girl Scout council, at baldersana@hotmail.com.

## Grief Ministry

St. Mark's grief ministry, Journey Towards Healing, is designed to support individuals and families.

The ministry reaches out to those in the parish who have lost a loved one through death. Our hope is that no one go through this painful journey alone. Our volunteers are individuals who have been called to this ministry through their own experiences of loss as well as those who recognize the need for programs to support those who are grieving.

For more information, contact Robert Martinez at (210) 494-1606, ext. 315.



## Habitat for Humanity

St. Mark's Habitat for Humanity was established in 1997 as part of the Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio (HFHSA) affiliate that came to San Antonio in 1976. HFHSA is an ecumenical Christian non-profit housing organization working in partnership with God's people to build simple, decent and affordable houses for those in need.

St. Mark's is the first Catholic parish in the Arch-

diocese of San Antonio to sponsor and build a Habitat house. To date, construction of 24 homes have been completed. Volunteers are always needed.

For more information, contact Bill or Kathy Faucher at (210) 496-7221.

## Hospitality Sunday Ministry

Just like friends get together for coffee and doughnuts, St. Mark's Hospitality Sunday Ministry facilitates our faith-loving parishioners in coming together to visit and get to know one another. Hospitality Sunday takes place on the first Sunday of each month (except for holidays) in the community center gym after the 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Masses.

Hospitality Sunday ministers greet and socialize while serving free doughnuts, coffee, juice, etc. Membership is open to parishioners of all ages. We share and socialize with, serve and try to make the St. Mark's community feel at home. We are always in need of volunteers. For more information, contact Marco or Claudia Banda at (210) 459-5627

## Knights of Columbus Council #7613

Membership in the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity for wholesome association with congenial companions who are, first of all, practical Catholic gentlemen, practicing Catholics and at least 18 years of age. It offers the opportunity for fellowship with those who are of the same belief, who recognize the same duty to God, to family, to country and to neighbor and who stand side by side in defense of those beliefs.

Visit [www.kofc7613.org](http://www.kofc7613.org) for more information.

## Lectors

A lector is a person who proclaims the first and second reading at Mass. This person may lead the Prayers of the Faithful in the absence of a deacon. The lector must believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God and have deep respect for God's presence in the Word. Before the

beginning of the Liturgical Year, lectors are given a book of the Sunday readings. All lectors are expected to come to Mass prepared to proclaim God's Word for assigned liturgies.

For more information, contact Lili Vasquez at (210) 834-2115 or Mercedes Ramirez (210) 325-0035 for the Spanish Mass.

## Liturgy Team

The Liturgy Team members coordinate and plan liturgies—mainly during the Lenten season, Holy Week, Easter and Christmas. The Liturgy Team is also involved in reconciliation services, Mass of the Anointing of the Sick, and other special liturgies. Good liturgy is accomplished through the work of many people. The members are people with a commitment and enthusiasm for the importance of liturgy and who want to improve the quality of liturgy in the parish.

For more information, contact Robert Martinez at (210) 494-1606, ext. 315.



## Manna to Your Door

Manna to Your Door is a ministry that provides dinners to families/parishioners who are experiencing temporary emergencies, illnesses or an addition of a new family member.

To help provide a meal, contact John & Judy Handrahan at (210) 323-2149 or stmarkmanna@gmail.com.

## Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provides a well-balanced, hot lunch delivered to residents of Bexar County who are 60 years of age or older, homebound, unable to travel to a senior nutrition center for lunch, unable to prepare a meal for themselves or have no one in the home to prepare a meal for them.

There is no charge for eligible clients, and income is not a criterion for service; however, a small donation is suggested. All donations go back into the program to provide more meals. The Meals on Wheels program welcomes volunteer drivers for the St. Mark's route. Substitute drivers may volunteer to help Meals on Wheels deliver hot lunches and warm smiles to our homebound elderly.

For more information, contact Richard or Kit Miller at (210) 494-6323.

## Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

St. Mark's is pleased to provide a spiritual and sacramental lifeline to parishioners who cannot attend Mass because of hospitalization, being homebound, serious illness, injury or similar circumstance. When a minister of the Church brings Communion, the sick or elderly person shares in the Eucharistic meal of St. Mark's community. Holy Communion is a bond to the community as it is a union with Christ.

For more information, contact Robert Martinez at (210) 494-1660, ext. 315.

## Monday Night Prayer Group

The Monday Night Prayer Group is a group of parishioners who meet for prayer in the library every Monday evening right after the 6:30 pm Mass.

For more information, call the Pastoral Office at (210) 494-1606.

## Music Ministry (Choirs & Ensembles)

The music ministry leads the musical prayer of the assembly during Mass. This is done by helping the parish community actively sing together and offering music to assist meditative prayer and contemplation to inspire active participation.

We also offer community outreach through The Yvonne Cosgrove Concert Series and educational opportunities.

The ministry uses a variety of styles. People can offer their musical abilities in one of the following ways: children's choir; music and faith formation; traditional choir; youth/young adult contemporary ensembles; adult contemporary/folk group; Spanish choir; cantors; instrumentalists; and concert and community outreach volunteers.

To become involved in St. Mark's Music Ministry or learn more about a particular group or effort, contact Josh Frilling, director of Music Ministry, at ext. 330 or [jfrilling@stmarkevangelist.com](mailto:jfrilling@stmarkevangelist.com).

or (210) 494-1606, ext. 316, or Jose Gonzalez, assistant director, at [jgonzalez@stmarkevangelist.com](mailto:jgonzalez@stmarkevangelist.com).

## Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Our Catholic Church supports Natural Family Planning (NFP) as the only acceptable method for couples hoping to space or avoid pregnancy.

If you are interested in taking a class or learning more about NFP, contact John or Cathy Nix at [jandcnix@gmail.com](mailto:jandcnix@gmail.com) or (210) 695-8020. If you currently use NFP and would be interested in teaching or promoting, please give us a call.

## Prayerline

The St. Mark's Prayerline is operated by a special group of volunteers who receive confidential prayer requests via telephone. Calls are made to the Prayerline and then forwarded to the assigned volunteer. Each volunteer prays as the Holy Spirit leads them. All prayer requests are confidential, and anonymous requests are accepted. God answers all prayers!

To find out how you can help, call Peggy Matcek at (210) 494-2968.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

One of our newest ministries, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is an opportunity to serve the St. Mark's community in ways that will definitely make a difference. We serve the homebound and those confined to nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities by providing shawls that offer comfort and warmth to all those who receive them. Each shawl is blessed by our pastor and includes a Rosary, pamphlet and prayer card.

There is a huge need in our community, so help is needed to make the prayer shawls. If you are unable to knit or crochet, you can still help by donating yarn or other supplies.

For more information, contact Velma Spruel Williams at (210) 416-5563.

## Quilters

St. Mark's quilters, the Lion's Pride, meet every Friday from 9 am to 3 pm in Christopher Hall, room 201. All are welcome for friendship and quilting.

Our abilities vary from beginner to advanced skills. The more knowledgeable members are very willing to assist those who are learning. We learn from each other. Our gift quilts are available to anyone who is sick or hurting and can use the comfort of a quilt that has been made with love and prayers.

For more information, call Pat Brookes at (210) 494-5832 or Wanda Hopson at (210) 844-6333.

## Retrouvaille

"Retrouvaille" (rě-tru-vi; long I) is a highly successful Christian peer ministry that helps couples in struggling marriages. Retrouvaille is a French word that means "to find oneself again; to find each other again; or, to find one's way again." It can be translated best into one word: "rediscovery." Retrouvaille helps husbands and wives rediscover each other and why they fell in love. For more information, go to [www.Retrouvaille.org](http://www.Retrouvaille.org). For information about the local program, go to [www.rosatx.org](http://www.rosatx.org) or call Keith or Leslie Weis-

senstein at (830) 612-2035.

## Right to Life/40 Days for Life

Right to Life/40 Days for Life is a pro-life group that holds Respect Life Holy Hours and organizes a St. Mark's day at the sidewalk to pray for an end to abortion in front of Planned Parenthood.

Each spring and fall, the St. Mark's parish community participates in the 40 Days for Life campaign at the Planned Parenthood located on 2140 Babcock Road. We cover the sidewalk in continuous prayer on our sponsored day from 7 am to 7 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to stand and pray for the protection of the unborn.

Contact Cathy Nix at [cathy@sacfl.org](mailto:cathy@sacfl.org) for more information or log on to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

## Sanctuary Care

Linen care ministers are responsible for washing and ironing the altar linens and the priest's and altar server vestments on a weekly basis. The time required for this ministry is about two hours once every three months.

For more information, contact Gwen Byers at (210) 355-0379.

## Secrets of the Rosary

Come pray with us and learn Mother Mary's secrets using St. Louis de Montfort's holy book, *Secrets of the Rosary*.

We pray the Rosary and study a secret each week from this book. St. Louis shows us that the Rosary is the cure for every ill, not just for ourselves, but for our suffering world. We meet every Tuesday, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in Christopher Hall, room 206.

For more information, call Stan Harmen at (210) 495-4144.

## Singles Ministry 45 Years +

Newly formed, this ministry is a group of active

people 45 years old and greater who gather once or twice a month for Fun, Fellowship, and Faith. Activities include concerts, meals out, dancing, volunteering, worshipping and much more.

For more information call (210) 494-1606 ext. 345.

## Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The mission of the Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe is fourfold: 1) to encourage its members and the parish family to bear witness to the love of God, to live the life of Christ and honor His most Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe; 2) to promote throughout the parish community Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the Americas and Protectress of the Unborn Child; 3) to instill in each member and parishioner a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe through the recitation of the Rosary, public and private prayer and participation in the Eucharistic celebration; and 4) to come together annually during the month of December as members, along with fellow parishioners, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

For more information, contact Veronica Davis at (210) 218-2175.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides person-to-person service to help those who are suffering and to alleviate poverty by addressing its causes. The Society serves persons regardless of race, creed or color. St. Vincent de Paul membership is open to all Christians wishing to serve the suffering and needy.

For more information, contact María Rodríguez at (210) 861-0266.



## Special Needs Ministry

The Special Needs Ministry is a faith formation program for individuals with special needs. The program is made up of two classes—one for beginning students and one for students ready for sacramental preparation. Student companions are always needed, and we encourage you to be a part of this special ministry.

For more information, call Kay Parker at (210) 410-7105 or Barbara Thabet at (210) 842-2946.

## The Spirit and the Word

The Spirit and the Word is a charismatic prayer group made up of Catholic Christians who give praise, thanks, honor and love to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through evidence and demonstration of the Holy Spirit's gifts. The Spirit and the Word also hosts a monthly Charismatic Healing of the Family Tree Mass and overnight Adoration.

For more information, contact Carmen Frankel at (210) 954-4272.

## Teams of Our Lady

Teams of Our Lady is a lay movement officially recognized by the Holy See under the Pontifical Council for the Laity and founded in 1947 by Father Henri Caffarel of France. A team is a group of five to seven couples and a spiritual advisor who meet once a month to share, pray and discuss challenges of living a Christian marriage and life. Couples use a time-tested format to meet their needs and desires of growing closer in love and faith. In the process, they discover support for one another and their marriage.

To learn more about Teams of Our Lady, visit [www.teamsofourlady.org](http://www.teamsofourlady.org).

## Thursday Morning Faith Group

Are you prepared for Mass each Sunday? Have you read the Scriptures that are to be reflected upon during the homily? The Thursday Morning Small Faith Group meets every Thursday morning in the Matthew Mark Room to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures and reflecting on

what they mean to us. We also offer encouragement and support for each other in prayer.

For more information, contact Velma Spruel Williams at (210) 416-5563.

## Thursday Studies in the Catholic Faith

Thursday Studies in the Catholic Faith covers many topics. Recently, we have studied the Catechism, Church history, Doors of Mercy, a study of Mary the Mother of God in Scripture and other topics. The purpose of this group is to broaden our knowledge of our faith and our understanding of the Catholic Church.

For more information, contact Don Cosgrove at (210) 710-0722.



## Traveling Loaves & Fishes, Inc.

The mission of Traveling Loaves & Fishes is to provide food and clothing with dignity to the homeless and other disadvantaged communities of San Antonio and its surrounding areas through the daily delivery of nourishing meals and compassionate interaction. Teams of two to four volunteers spend approximately two hours a month preparing and/or delivering meals to our clients.

Visit our website at [www.tlfsa.org](http://www.tlfsa.org) and follow us on Facebook. For more information, contact La Verne Dysart at (210) 488-3514 or [tlf.dysart@gmail.com](mailto:tlf.dysart@gmail.com).

## Ushers

Ushers are people chosen to reflect the warmth and welcome of Christ himself. Their role is to offer a friendly, welcoming presence to those coming to Mass and to provide leadership during emergencies. Ushers are tasked with taking up the collection, presenting the gifts and assisting parishioners during Communion.

For more information, contact Robert Martinez at (210) 494-1606, ext. 315.

## Welcoming Committee

St. Mark's strives to make our parishioners and larger parish community feel like family. Welcome ambassadors are needed to serve as an extension of the committee to actively welcome our brothers and sisters attending Mass at St. Mark's.

For more information, call 210-494-1606 ext. 345.



## Women's Guild

Formerly known as the Altar Society and established with the parish in 1976, Women's Guild is an active ministry of women aged 18 and over.

The objectives of the guild are: to assist the pastor under his direction, care for the altar linens used for worship services and to plan and prepare the sacred spaces for liturgical seasons; to promote spiritual growth and fellowship among its members; and, to support religious, civic and educational programs. Throughout the year we hold nine monthly meetings. Various committees organize fundraising events such as bake sales, a used book sale, a scholarship luncheon gala, and trash and treasure sales to support our

objectives. We lead the Rosary monthly before the Saturday evening Mass and hold an annual retreat for all women of the parish.

For more information, contact Carole Thompsen at (210) 535-7960.

## Young Adults Community

The Young Adults Community is a spiritual, service and social ministry made up of Catholic young adults from the St. Mark, Holy Trinity and St. Padre Pio parishes. We hold monthly meetings as well as spiritual, social and service events and attend other functions in the San Antonio area regularly. Check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/YACSA/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/YACSA/). Questions, contact Blake Tamez at [btamez@stmarkeveangelist.com](mailto:btamez@stmarkeveangelist.com) or (210) 494-1606 ext.332

## Young at Heart Seniors Club

Attention seniors ages 50 or older! Looking for fellowship & fun? Then join us every second and fourth Monday of the month. Bring your lunch at 11:30 am and share a moment of prayer for family and friends. Game time starts after lunch and ends by 2 pm. Yearly dues are only \$10. Come by for a trial visit to see what you've been missing! Contact Juanita Sanchez (210) 276-0269 for more information.

## A Prayer for Our Volunteers

Loving Father,

You taught us the importance of service through the many examples set by your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the works of the Holy Spirit and the grace poured out by you, these wonderful people have heard your call to do great and wonderful things here at St. Mark's.

May you continue to care for our parish volunteers and may you shower them with love and many blessings. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thank you for all you do to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action.