



Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

5:00 p.m.,

7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Sunday:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,

11:30 a.m.,

4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

Daily Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 7:30 a.m.;

Wed, 12 p.m. (noon)

Adoration:

Mon, Tue, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.;

Wed, 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.;

Fri, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Confessions:

Sat, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Taking Care of God's Yard

When you come to our parish, you can't help but be amazed at our well-tended parish grounds. From time to time, they just may make you think of the Creator and all of His blessings. However, such landscaping work doesn't come by without diligent effort.

"We really appreciate all that the members of the Landscape Committee do," says Business Manager Rick Wright. "I have seen these guys out there working in 100-degree weather when they could be out playing golf. We want our grounds to look perfect for our parishioners when they come to church on Sunday, and that is what the committee helps us do."

The Landscape Committee is a group of volunteers that maintains the 28 acres of our parish property. At this time, the crew includes Ed Smith, David Moreno, Leonard Marusak, Phil Clark and Charles Ervine. They do the "hard work" of mowing, tree pruning, cleaning up, and edging outside of the courtyard and adjacent



(From left) Phil Clark, Ed Smith, Ministry Team Leader Charles Ervine (standing), and Leonard Marusak.

building areas. They usually work at last four or five hours a week.

"We don't just eat donuts and drink coffee out there!" Charles says. "It is a much bigger job than people realize. We continue to get the property cleaned up more and more. Our group is so great! They are very cooperative and nice to work with, and they all pitch in."

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Taking Care of God's Yard continued from front cover

In addition, our parish hires another crew to do the fine trimming, the weeding of the beds, and the hand mowing.

As pleasant as our parish property appears now, however, it was not always this way. It was once covered with rocks, debris and piles of concrete. Over time, the Landscape Committee has cleaned it up very well.

Charles, who started helping out on the parish grounds years ago, takes this ministry to heart, and is glad to be able to use his time and talent for the glory of God and the good of our parish community.

“When we moved out to this area in 1999 and joined St. Mark's, I wanted to contribute in some way,” he says. “I had a desk job until I retired, but I have always enjoyed working outside. When I first went to our parish, I looked around and I realized that the church really needed help with landscaping, so I decided to start at it. I am 79 years old, but I will probably continue doing this as long as I am able to.”

When asked what first inspired him to volunteer for this ministry, Charles has some thoughtful remarks to share.

“It is important for our church to look nice,” he says. “I would not want to live next to somebody who did not take care of their property. The church has a responsibility to make sure their property is inviting to others – and not an eyesore. There are nice homes in our neighborhood, and we should try to fit into the neighborhood.”

Charles has also found that being on the Landscape Committee is a wonderful way to live out his commitment to stewardship and enjoy fellowship.

“What we do would cost the church a considerable amount of money if they had to pay to have it done,” he says. “Being on the committee is a great way to get to know people, and the more you know people, the more involved you become with the church. It just kind of grows!”

Ed Smith performs most of the maintenance and repairs for the grounds care equipment.

More volunteers are welcome to come and help keep our parish grounds beautiful. After all, our church is God's house, and the grounds are His yard! For more information, please contact Charles Ervine at 940-367-0804.

A Letter From Our Pastor

We Are All Part of the Ministry of Hospitality

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a time of many celebrations in the Church. The list is almost endless at this time of year – First Communion, Confirmations, graduations, and weddings. There are so many events that bring people who are not from the parish, or even members of the Church, into our parish.

You may recall that we speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. I want to particularly speak of that pillar of Hospitality this month. It is important every day of every year and at everything we do as a parish community. However, at this time of year, when there may be strangers and newcomers in our midst, it becomes even more important.

Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. In Matthew 25:35, the Lord speaks to us in terms of expectations when He says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” He makes it clear to us that whenever we welcome any of His brothers and sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. Sometimes, we may think that this concept of hospitality is the responsibility of a committee, ministry or group of people assigned that task – but the truth is that we are all part of the parish hospitality effort.

If we are going to be a stewardship parish, and if each of us is going to be a good steward, we need to be aware that we need to seek and find Christ in everyone around us, everyone we meet, and certainly everyone who enters our church or other parish facilities.

Hospitality is a parish priority that each of us must take to heart. It is not so challenging to greet someone, smile at them and welcome them – yet, it may require a little extra effort on our part. That means we must have an awareness of those near us, of those who may appear to be alone or new. We may not always think of Christ in this way, but if we carefully



listen to Holy Scripture, we must realize that He was a caring, welcoming and friendly person. If we are to be His disciples, we need to be the same.

As stated, Jesus assures us that when we welcome others, we are welcoming Him, as well. St. Paul once said that people who are hospitable sometimes entertain angels. For us, parish hospitality is not an option. It is our way to model the Kingdom of God right here and right now.

In Christ,

Fr. George
Pastor



A Look Back on Holy Week

As the Easter Season comes to a close, we look back on the celebrations that have helped to lead us to a new season of renewal and newness of life here at St. Mark's.



Week and Easter at St. Mark



The Bonfields

Living Life For Christ, Together

There are many things that bring the Bonfields together, but the Catholic faith is at the heart of them all.

“Tom was the vessel that God used to bring me to the Catholic faith,” Kim says. “We met when I was 15 and I was intrigued to see that he and his family were strong in their Catholic faith and committed to its practice. Watching Tom and his family made me want the same relationship to God and faith. I joined the Catholic Church when I was 19 years old and have a convert’s love for the Church today. I was previously Methodist, and while people of both faiths love Christ, I loved that the Catholic Church expected more of me. It expected me to attend Mass regularly, serve the Church and my brothers and sisters, pray, read Scripture, and evangelize.”

Since their marriage 35 years ago, Tom and Kim have striven to embrace a stewardship way of life together, bearing beautiful fruit for the Kingdom of God. Tom and Kim have two grown children – Christie Davis, who is married to Matt, and Jessica Welch, married to Philip. Jessica and Philip are parishioners of our parish.

When their children were growing up, Tom and Kim tried to teach them about the truths of our sacred faith and make sure they attended CCD classes.

“One of the commitments that Tom and I made to one another when we were first married was that we would always attend Mass together, and then as a family, once



(From left) Matt and Christie Davis, Kim and Tom Bonfield, and Jessica and Philip Welch.

we had children,” Kim says. “As the saying goes, ‘The family that prays together, stays together.’”

And of course, spending time together was and still is a priority for the Bonfields, in order to glorify God and foster a healthy family life.

“We always ate our meals together as a family,” Tom says. “I believe that it is very important for families to do that. Your kids need to witness that your faith is a part of all aspects of your life – it is not just about going to Mass on Sunday.”

Currently, Tom serves as a lector, is active in the Bread of Life Ministry, and has been involved with the design of the building of our new Parish Hall. He has also

been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 30 years.

“I really enjoy the service projects that the Knights do, for our parish and for the greater community, as well as the camaraderie of being among other good Catholic guys,” Tom says.

Furthermore, Kim heads up the parish Finance Committee as well, and serves as a mentor for the Mentor Couples program along with Tom.

“We are now in our 32nd year of mentoring young couples,” Kim says. “We love meeting each and every couple and helping start them on their way to a successful marriage!”

Overall, however, Tom and Kim feel that perhaps the most significant

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The Bonfields continued from page 6

aspect of their faith journey has been their involvement with adult ACTS retreats. They have both been on a number of retreats and have served as directors of the retreats, as well. Their daughter, Jessica, has also been on an ACTS retreat.

“We have always been involved in our parish, but going on the ACTS retreats has helped our personal spirituality and allowed us to achieve a better understanding of our faith,” Tom says. “On the retreats, we each experienced a turning point in our spiritual lives and gained a deeper relationship with God.”

Tom and Kim are also part of a supportive faith-sharing group called Denton Marrieds. This group has about 10 couples, and arose out of their participation with ACTS.

“We meet once a month to share our faith and our life experiences, as well as to help and encourage one another in living a faith-filled marriage,” Kim says. “In our monthly meetings, we come together as an extended family to share a meal, fellowship, prayer and faith study, much like the ‘Home Churches’ of the early Church.”

In the end, being involved with ACTS has given Tom and Kim what all Catholics truly need – the gift of fellowship.

“I believe Catholic people should hang out with other Catholic people,” Tom says. “It is great to build connections with people that share the same morals and the same principles as you and your family.”

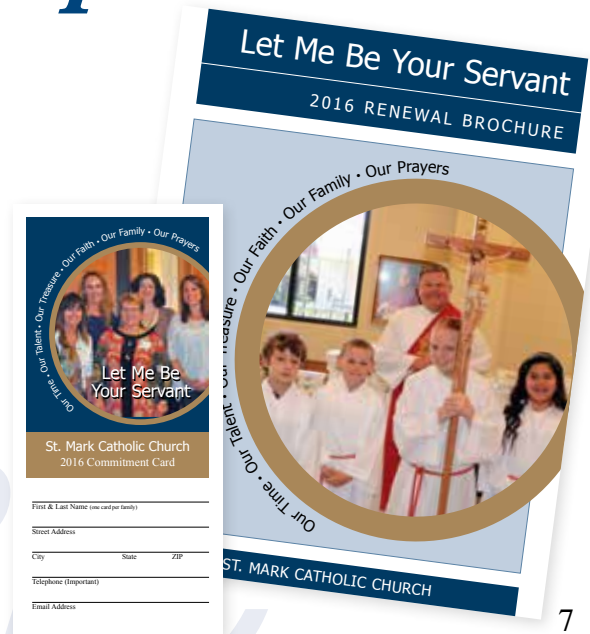
“We always ate our meals together as a family. I believe that it is very important for families to do that. Your kids need to witness that your faith is a part of all aspects of your life – it is not just about going to Mass on Sunday.” – Tom Bonfield

Thank You for Your Participation in Our 2016 Stewardship Renewal!

We thank you for your participation in the 2016 Stewardship Renewal. This annual commitment on behalf of our parishioners helps to ensure that St. Mark remains a vital and faith-filled parish community!

Included here are some of the results of the 2016 Stewardship Renewal:

- There were 352 Commitment Cards received, with a return rate of 18 percent
- There were 286 households with Prayer Commitments
- There were 1,274 Ministry Commitments, with 893 being re-commitments and 381 being new commitments
- There were 299 Offertory Commitments, with an average annual pledge of \$2,704.

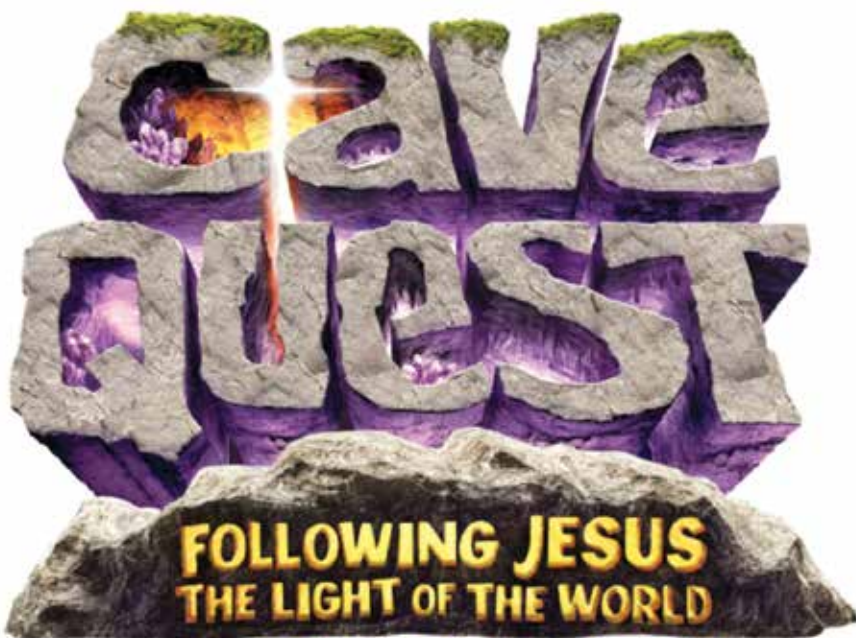


Saint Mark

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Get Ready for Vacation Bible School 2016!



Come and join us for a Totally Catholic Underground Adventure at Vacation Bible School this summer! At Cave Quest, kids explore what it means to follow Jesus through dark times. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. They will also have opportunities to be the light of the world through our VBS service project.

- Come and join us June 13-17, from 9 a.m. – noon each day!
- Cost is \$20/child or \$60 max/family for parishioners.
- Non-parishioner cost is \$35/child or \$100 max/family.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/vbsstmark> or scan the QR code below to register online!



Saint Mark