



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.

Altar Servers Play Vital Role at Mass

If you ask our altar servers why they volunteer to serve, they'll most likely tell you they enjoy helping — and having the opportunity to grow closer to God.

“Altar servers are important to the Mass for several reasons,” says Joy Medley, Director of Liturgy. “The children are taught at a young age to begin to discern their vocation in life. As an altar server, helping the priest and deacons during Mass is such a wonderful way to serve. It allows them to discern the calling to the priesthood. For our female altar servers, it allows them to discern the call to a religious order also. It gives them a small glimpse.”

The comprehensive training booklet each new altar server receives explains in detail why the role of altar server is important, as well:

“The altar server retains a genuine and vital role in the liturgical assembly. Your role, through your actions and conduct, is to bring the assembly to a fuller understanding of the liturgy and a greater love for God. You have a place of honor at Mass, because you assist the priest in many ways. Your behavior and accomplishments are signs of your faith and your love for God and God's people.”

“It has a tremendous effect on the youth as there is no other way to be closer to Christ than in the

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Isabel Browne, a veteran altar server, carries the cross during the Mass procession. She and Jonathan Mendes, both eighth-grade students, have been altar servers since they were in elementary school. They appreciate the solemnity of their service and the opportunity to assist at Mass.

Altar Servers Play Vital Role at Mass

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celebration of the Holy Mass,” Joy says. “They have a front row seat to experience Christ.”

Isabel Browne and Jonathan Mendes have been altar servers for five and six years, respectively. Each offers her and his perspective on what the experience means to them.

“I started serving when I was in third grade,” Isabel says. “I wanted to do it because I always saw the kids serving and I thought it was really cool. I thought it’d be a fun thing to do.”

As she began serving, Isabel found that the ministry offered a way to meet new people, and gave her the opportunity to help Fr. George at Mass.

“The best part of serving is that you feel like you’re helpful and you get to do something for the church, and be useful,” Isabel says.

Isabel admits to being nervous when she first started her ministry — her biggest fear was that she might fall when she was carrying the entrance cross. With her experience to guide her, however, that fear now is gone.

She encourages other young members of the parish to volunteer to be a server.

“Try it,” she says. “It’s really fun and you get to help Fr. George and do other work for the Lord.”

Jonathan says since he has begun serving, his faith has grown and deepened.

“I like helping and learning about God,” he says. “I really want to learn more about Jesus as He’s guiding me in life.”

The experience of serving is a profound one for Jonathan.

“To be there on the altar, you are really aware of the presence of God,” he says. “He’s right in front of you. I like getting to help the priest and be with God.”

A recent highlight for Jonathan was having the opportunity to serve Mass with Bishop Michael Olson when the Bishop arrived at St. Mark.

“He just happened to come to church here and Father asked me to serve,” Jonathan says. “I didn’t want to miss out on this! This was a big event!”

After Jonathan is confirmed, he wants to become an usher, and later, be commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Over the years, the excitement among altar servers about their service has been very evident to Joy.



Altar server Jonathan Mendes had the opportunity to serve Mass for Bishop Michael Olson. Jonathan is one of the dedicated altar servers here at St. Mark.

“The children look forward to the age they are allowed to become an altar server,” she says. “They have anxiously watched the older children serving their community and are so eager to begin serving. It is a beginning of a lifelong commitment to serving their parishes in the future. Our St. Mark community is richly blessed with the example our parents set in showing their children what it means to serve Christ. They have led by example, and their children naturally follow and begin serving as soon as they are able.”

Thank You to All of Our Wonderful Altar Servers!

Eleni Jo Browne
Isabel Browne
Alyson Cash
Austin Correia
Josef Correia
Christian Hyde
Raymond Martinich
Jonathan Mendes
Sydney Miller
Brooklynn Northeim
Dylan Northeim
Jordan Russell
Benjamin Weatherford
Josh Weatherford

Alex Boos
Ethan Boos
Aiden Desjardins
Ethan Desjardins
Brendan Ezzo
Andrew Gibson
Isaac Gibson
Will Gibson
Noah Kulle
Shae Kulle
Abigal LaCrosse
Andrew LaCrosse
Zack LaCrosse
Trevor Moreno

Jonathan Papaila
Everett Pavlat
Patrick Pavlat
Gabriella Smith
Zachary Angelo
Gabriel Azcona
DeLaney Bondurant-Fincher
Christopher Contreras
Dawn Marie Dempsey
Gracie Demosey
Alexis Headrick
Samuel Hudson
Megan Murello
Zachary Murello

Lita Perez
Gavin Robison
Abigal Robison
Elijah Rouly
Nash Rouly
Jacob Shirk
Logan Wind
Sarah Auer
Regan Brustad
Ryan Comiskey
Mary Harris
Clara Jackson
Olivia Laubacjer
Andrew Lock

Elizabeth Lock
Teresa Lopez
Ally Meiwes
Wally Sagui
Caleb Scott
Timmy Scott
Hope Spence
Ben Stowell
Jonathan Thies
Samantha Vasquez
Isabel Waters
Max Williams
Boden Woolums
Brian Woolums

Interested in becoming an altar server? Call the parish office at 940-387-6223.

A Letter From Our Pastor

The Month of Mary: A Time for Celebration and Joy

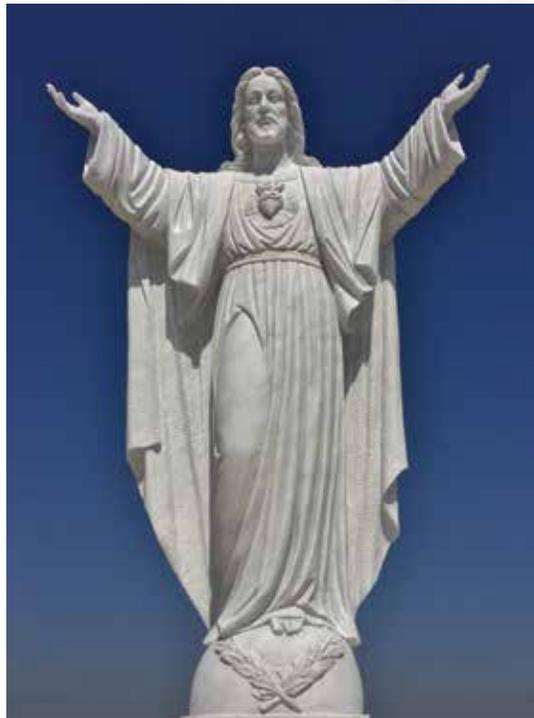
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month — and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine — which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and to our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form really made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint and in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek — and we, too, must



say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing, and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant. I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

In Christ,

Fr. George
Pastor

Welcoming God into Your Home

Many years ago, Andrea Woolums and her husband, Brent, were not feeling connected to any Catholic community. Married and just starting their family, the Woolums were non-practicing Catholics. However, in 1993, Andrea was invited to a Catholic mother's retreat at a Schoenstatt Shrine. Little did she realize, it would be the start of something, which would end up changing everything.

"Through Schoenstatt, our lives have been transformed," Andrea says. "We've really experienced living our faith on a daily basis, in our home and with our children."

The Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement was founded in Germany, in 1914. The heart of the lay Catholic movement is to promote a three-fold mission — to help people live as an instrument of God and trusting in Divine Providence, embracing everyday spirituality, and living in a covenant connected with others.

"It meets people in all walks of life, wherever they're at," Andrea says. "It's for the moral and religious renewal of the world."

The shrine associated with the humble beginnings of Schoenstatt, in Germany, has become a pilgrimage site, with replica shrines built all around the world, including three in Texas.

"[Pilgrims] don't experience physical transformations, but they experience the grace of inner transformation," Andrea says.

Along with visiting particular shrines, another aspect of this movement is dedicating a home shrine, a small replica of the Schoenstatt Shrine in Germany, to serve as a reminder to invite Jesus and the Blessed Mother in your life and family.

"We dedicated a shrine in our home and we ask the Blessed Mother to come live with us and transform our family," Andrea says. "My husband and I did not know



Brent and Andrea Woolums and their family have experienced growing in their faith through the Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement.

ne: *The Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement*

how to pray together as a family or how to live connected to God in our home. Our home shrine and our family prayer life is the strongest part of who we are as a family, and it wouldn't be there without Schoenstatt."

The movement fosters the growth of its members through small groups participating in formation together, based on their state in life — single, couples, mothers, and young people. Many of the shrines also offer retreats and summer camps.

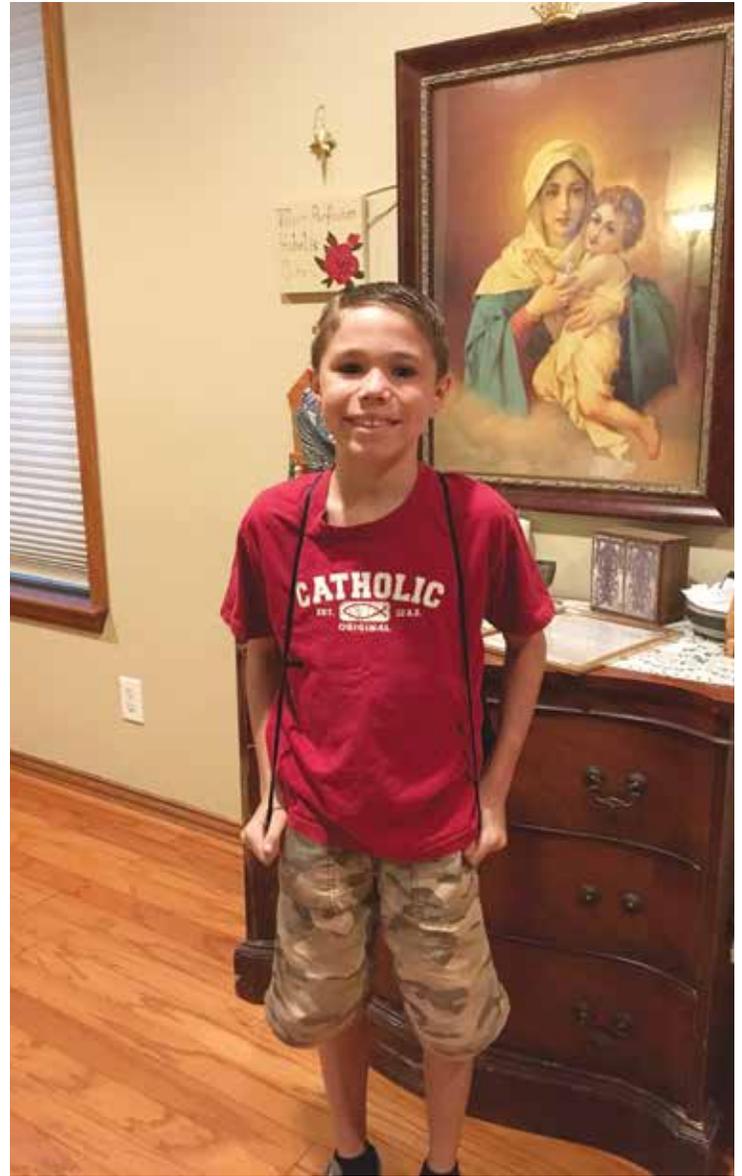
"We meet monthly to grow together spiritually," says Andrea of the couples' group that meets in their home. "We're exploring our role as parents and how to be holy parents, modeled on the Holy Family. We delve into that and explore how it connects to Scripture and the Catechism and our daily lives."

Being involved with Schoenstatt has also helped Andrea grow in a life of serving the Church, through stewardship.

"I think one of the biggest things in stewardship is knowing what your gifts from God are, so that you can share the gifts you've been given," Andrea says. "It can be frustrating to share in a way that you're really not gifted. One of the biggest things Schoenstatt has given me is knowing myself and being able to have the tools to look at who I am and know what God has called me to, so I can direct the giving of my time and talent in the way I know I've been gifted."

Andrea encourages couples and families who are curious about this movement to come, chat with her and Brent, and see what it's all about.

"Schoenstatt would be for somebody who is searching for a way to live out their faith on a daily basis and striving to grow in holiness each day," Andrea. "It's a very natural movement. It doesn't have requirements or lots of hoops to jump through — it's more about looking at your everyday life and how can you live that in a holy way, where you're at. I can't even begin to describe the blessings we've had being a part of this."



The home shrine is a center of prayer and grace in the Woolums' home.

All are welcome to join in the North Texas Schoenstatt Movement's May Crowning, Mass and potluck, which will take place on May 19, at St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine. Visitors are also welcome to the couples' group and there is no commitment necessary. For more information on the Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement, couples' groups or May Crowning, please contact Brent and Andrea Woolums at 940-367-4479 or woolums10@verizon.net. You can also learn more about the movement at www.schoenstatt.us.

The Blessings of the Catholic Mass

It is ironic that today, with all of the freedom of religion that we enjoy in the United States, many of us wonder why we must go to Mass on Sunday.

However, if we really understood what the Mass is and how we participate in the celebration, we would instead be asking why we are, as sinful human beings, blessed with the opportunity to participate in the holy Mass. If we simply understood and recognized that God's infinite goodness allows us to do so, we would be eager to go to Mass on Sunday and every other day of the week.

It is true, however, that all Catholics are obliged to "Keep holy the Lord's Day" by sharing in the Mass. But why are we obliged?

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the center of our faith. It is "the summit toward which all activity of the Church is directed" and it is "the font from which all her power flows" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 10). It does not exhaust the activity of the Church, but is most certainly her greatest work.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is literally re-presented to the Father during Mass, and Christ allows us to join with Him in offering that sacrifice. Imagine our Lord and Savior dying on the cross for us right up the street. Imagine knowing that Mary is sitting at the foot of the cross with St. John, witnessing her Son giving Himself to the Father



for the sake of all of us. Would we not run to be there? Would we not desire to share in His sacrifice, just as Mary did?

Believe it or not, the sacrifice of Calvary is really, truly happening at our parish, every time the Mass is offered.

Our participation in Mass gives us the strength and the graces we need to live our lives as Christ's disciples. So, what does this mean for us?

This means we have a front row seat to the sacrifice of Calvary. Given such a gift, how can we not accept it?

We also have a chance to join in Jesus' sacrifice by offering our own prayers and petitions. As an example, what better gift could we give deceased loved ones than the offering of prayers for their souls in purgatory?

Most importantly, we have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist, followed by quiet time, when we offer sincere thanks and allow God's graces to fill us. Think of all you are missing when you do not properly prepare yourself to receive the Holy Eucharist.

We ought to joyfully head to Church each Sunday, eager to give God glory in the greatest way we can! Attending and actively participating in Mass every Sunday is our obligation as Catholics. But we should not allow the fact that our attendance is "required" to stop us from going. Nor should we allow our laziness to overshadow the amazing privilege and the many blessings that lay before us in the Mass.

The pope and the bishops direct us to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy every Sunday because they know there is no better way to keep holy the Lord's day — giving God thanks for all He has done for us in the most powerful way possible. They know that, through the Mass, we gain the graces necessary to live our lives in this world.

Our ability to participate in the Mass is a wonderful gift, not a great burden. May Christ enlighten our minds and hearts to clearly see the wonders of the celebration, and give us great enthusiasm and eagerness to participate.

Congratulations Helen Fairchild

St. Mark's 2017
Volunteer of the Year



Prayer:

Come to Know the Lord

We make constant reference to the “three Ts” of stewardship, recognizing that to truly live as a stewardship people, we must give God the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure. It is easy for us to see the concrete reality of the latter two. If we are to give God our talents, we must first recognize with what talents He has blessed us, and then use those talents for His greater glory. And as we continue our stewardship path, we know very well that our money is something concrete. When we recognize it as a gift from God, we know that we are to give a certain amount back to Him. It is easy for many of us to understand what it means to give God our talent and our treasure.

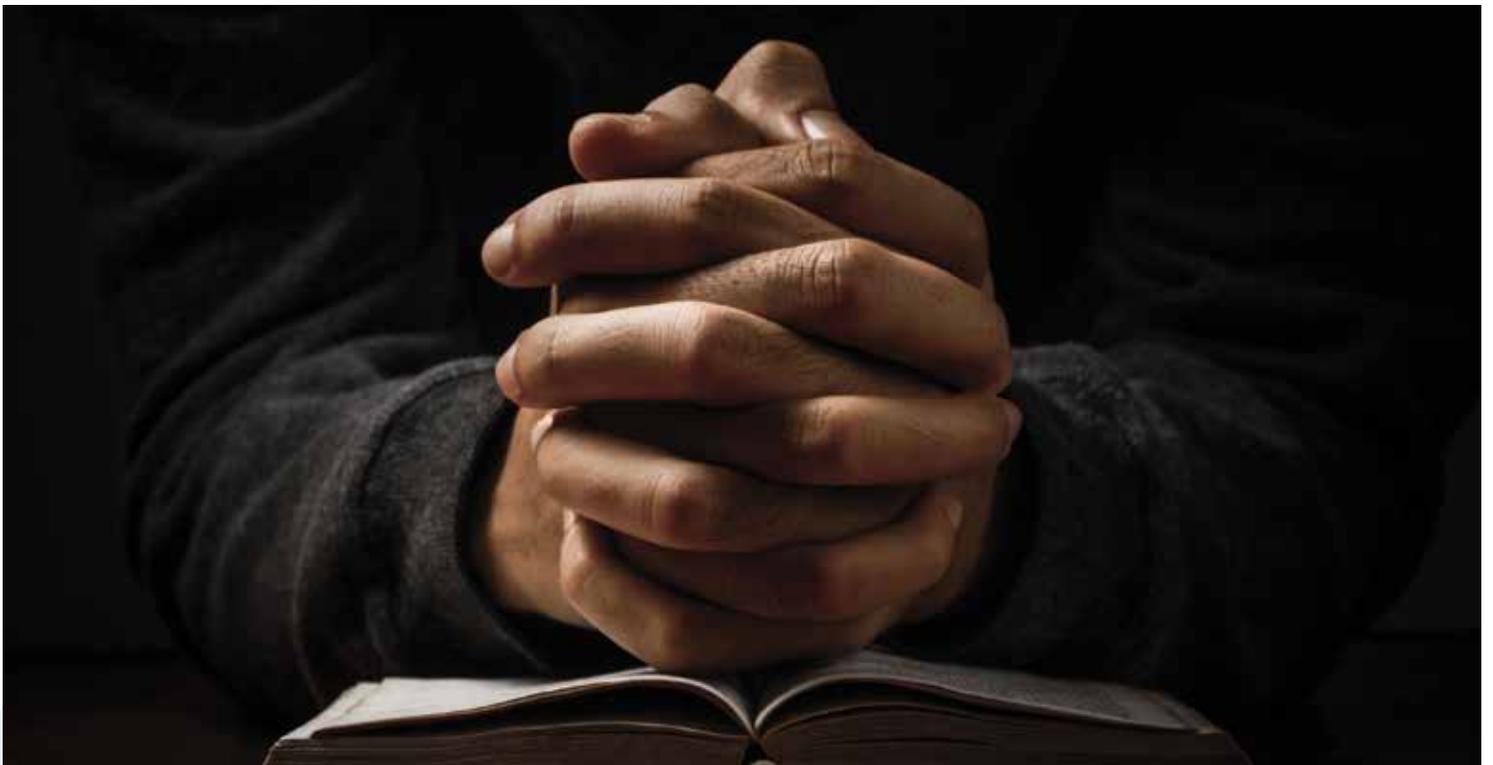
But what does it mean to give God a portion of our time? This idea is much harder to grasp, and yet giving to God the first fruits of our time is just as important as the other two. And if we understand this idea and implement it properly, our stewardship of time will serve as the very foundation from which our stewardship of talent and treasure bear fruit.

When we talk about stewardship of time, we are referring to prayer time. Prayer is of the utmost importance in a disciple’s life, and in the Diocese of Wichita’s, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, it is also one of the four pillars of stewardship.

Does this mean that in order to be true disciples, we should say the Our Father three times a day or pray a daily Rosary? Not particularly. Of course, we must not discount the merits of prayer, as the Church in her wondrous wisdom has given us certain prayers to help guide our lives. However, the disciple’s deep life of prayer involves even more.

St. John Chrysostom explains, “You should not think of prayer as being a matter of words. It is a desire for God, an indescribable devotion... the gift of God’s grace” (Hom 6). That is, if we look at prayer as a mere regimen that we must follow every day, then we do not see to the heart of it. The reality is that prayer will take on different forms for every one of us. One person may

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Saint Mark

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Prayer: Come to Know the Lord *continued from page 7*

have a deep devotion to the Rosary, and in praying it, he is closely united to the Lord. Another person might feel deeply connected to Him through constant conversation – in the car on the way to work, before bed at night, or at other hours throughout the day. Meanwhile, for another person, a daily or weekly hour of silence before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration is the best place for him to offer the Lord his heart. No matter how we choose to pray, we must get to the root of it all. If we are to truly give God our time, it must be a gift of ourselves. It must come from the heart and not take the form of mere word repetition. If we offer an Our Father without meditating on the words, it can simply become recitation.

The point of prayer is to get to know the Lord. If we are committed to living as His disciples, we must be on personal terms with Him. The first disciples didn't know what it meant to pray the Rosary. And until the Lord taught them the Our Father, they couldn't pray that either. But they were definitely true stewards of their time. They walked with

Jesus, talked with Jesus, and ate meals with Him. He was their best friend, and the more they got to know Him, the more they longed to serve Him.

The same holds true for us today. We can walk with Him, talk with Him and sit with Him, just as they did. And He wants us to do this, too. St. John Chrysostom proclaims, there is nothing more worthwhile: "For prayer unites us to God as His companions" (Hom 6). How can we serve Him if we don't know Him? If we truly desire to be a servant people, we must talk to Him whom we wish to serve. We must get to know Him. Then, most assuredly, we will fall in love with Him. We will undoubtedly desire nothing more than to serve Him.

Recognize Jesus as your best friend and spend time with Him as such. He is the Lord, the Creator of the Universe, without whom we would cease to exist. Bring Him your cares and concerns, your excitement, your worry, your fears and your frustrations, and allow Him to comfort you. He is there, and He wants to speak with you.

Saint Mark