



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., 2:00 p.m.,
4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

Daily Mass:

Tue, 7:30 a.m.
Wed 7:00 p.m.
Thu & Fri, 7:30 a.m.;

Adoration:

Mon - Thu 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fri 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Confessions:

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

Groundbreaking on April 23, and the Progress Underway



Meet the Lay Marianist Community of Denton Bringing Christ to the World as a Family

When parishioner Andy Gilliard talks about the Lay Marianist Community of Denton, the word he uses most often to describe them is “family.”

“It’s really focused on family and trying to live a lifestyle in which each continues to grow in understanding of one’s vocation — to serve the church, world, and Marianist family,” he says.

Being a member of this community has given Andy and his wife, Mary Ann, an extended family, made up in part of members from other parishes — people with whom they might not otherwise have an opportunity to spend time.

“We look forward to going to the meetings,” Mary Ann says. “We have members from different parishes. This allows for closeness with more people and exposure to more people.”

Established in 1817, according to the Chaminade University website, “the Society of Mary (Marianists) was founded by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, a priest in the Diocese of Bordeaux during the French Revolution when Christianity was threatened and the infrastructure of the Catholic Church was left in ruins. After the Church was restored in southern France, Blessed Chaminade organized groups of young men and women from all sectors of society into communities of mutual support and Christian outreach.”

Chaminade had joined the seminary as a teenager, and it was there that he realized a calling to join Mary in furthering her mission of bringing Christ to the world. During an exile in Saragossa, Spain, he chose to live near a shrine of Mary and came out of

continued on page 5



At the monthly gatherings of the local community, which are always open to the public, participants pray the Rosary together, pray for Marianists around the world, have a time for discussion and then socialize. Past discussion topics have included learning about the faith of Mary from the description given in the Gospel of John.

Embrace the Holy Spirit

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You've all heard homilies about Pentecost, which comes on June 5 this year. Pentecost was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles while they were gathered for prayer in Jerusalem.

Coming 10 days after Jesus' Ascension into heaven, the descent of the Holy Spirit turned the apostles from a collection of fearful followers looking for some direction into a band of courageous witnesses ready to declare their faith in Christ to the whole world.

You've heard that Pentecost is the birthday of the Church because that was the day when newly filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter preached the first Christian sermon, inviting his hearers to turn to Jesus as their Savior and their Lord. Those who accepted the invitation were baptized and "were added" to the Church (Acts 2:41). That day marked the beginning of the Church's public mission, which continues to the present.

But the Holy Spirit's actions in the Church were not limited to the apostles in an ancient time. He remains active down to the present, guiding the pope and the bishops as they go about their work of sanctifying, teaching and ruling in the Church. The Holy Spirit acts in the sacraments to make them effective signs of grace. We see the Holy Spirit's work in the witness of the saints through whom He continues the work of salvation.

The Spirit, moreover, acts not only in the Church as a corporate body, but also in the lives of individual Christians. We become temples of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism. Then at Confirmation, which is our own personal Pentecost, we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit unites us more closely to Christ, increases the spiritual gifts we have been given, and strengthens us to spread and defend the faith.

Ultimately, Pentecost is more than simply a feast celebrating something that happened a long time ago. Of course, the coming of the Spirit we read about in Acts 2 took place just once. But the Holy Spirit remains active



today, guiding the Church as a whole, but also working in the life of each individual Christian to make us holy.

Maybe you don't feel as if the Holy Spirit is working in your life. Well, God the Father gave us free will, so we can choose whether or not we'll obey Him. And God the Holy Spirit, being united in the one Godhead with the Father and the Son, honors that freedom. He'll never force us to turn away from sin or compel us to obey God's commandments. The Spirit offers us grace. He will beckon us toward heaven, and occasionally we may feel Him nudging us along, but we always have the freedom to choose God or to reject Him.

Perhaps you've made a commitment to worship at Mass at least weekly and spend some time each day in prayer. Maybe you have promised to use some of your talents in parish ministries and service to the community. You may even have turned in a card at our last renewal to indicate your pledge of a portion of your treasure to be used in God's service.

I hope you've done all of these. If so, both the Holy Spirit's grace and your response were involved in your decision. And the Holy Spirit will give you the strength to fulfill your commitments.

This Pentecost, make the Gradual verse we'll sing just before the Gospel your personal prayer:

*Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful;
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.*

If you do, you'll find the Holy Spirit working even more strongly in your life. You'll be happier, and the world, at least your little corner of it, will be a better place.

In Christ,

Fr. George
Pastor

Holy Week 2022

In April, we shared in the solemn observances of Holy Week, and celebrated Christ's resurrection during the Easter Vigil.



Meet the Lay Marianist Community of Denton

continued from page 2

his three years of exile with the idea of founding the Society of Mary. Composed of priests, brothers, and lay men and women, Chaminade believed that by creating a family composed of people from various walks of life and states in life, the group would be most effective at proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world.

Lay Marianist Communities are affiliated with brothers and priests of the congregation of the Society of Mary, which has a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our local Lay Marianist group meets regularly on the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. in rooms 107, 109, and 111 at the St. Mark Religious Education building for prayer, faith sharing, and outreach, in an effort to grow closer to Christ by modeling Mary's example. Retreats are usually held once or twice a year. Additionally, all Marianists, around the globe, pray at 3 p.m. each day.

At the monthly gatherings of the local community, which are always open to the public, participants pray the Rosary together, pray for Marianists around the world, have a time for discussion, and then socialize. Past discussion topics have included learning about the faith of Mary from the description given in the Gospel of John.

Andy says that this family-like community provides an opportunity to grow in faith and formation

together, and the offshoot of this is service to the wider area.

In fact, it was witnessing the example of loving service shown by two friends who were Lay Marianists that first drew Andy and Mary Ann to the community. Roger and Emily Utz, now both deceased, were faithful Marianists who had an outreach taking discarded food to local food pantries and charities.

"They made you feel wanted and needed, plus they were serving others," Andy says. "I liked the way Roger was being a steward. I was on the parish Stewardship Committee at the time and it fit together for me."

Andy and Mary Ann have witnessed the stewardship of hospitality displayed by Marianists around the world, as well.

"As you go around the country or overseas, wherever there's a lay community, you're more than welcome and treated as an old friend that they haven't seen in years," Andy says. "It's another aspect of family — you don't all have to be in the same location."

Service is at the heart of the message of the Blessed Mother. Speaking at the wedding feast at Cana, described in chapter 2 of John's Gospel, Mary says, "Do whatever He tells you." This, Andy says, is central to the Marianist call — being a servant, doing whatever Jesus tells you to do.

"It's really focused on family and trying to live a lifestyle in which each continues to grow in understanding of one's vocation — to serve the church, world and Marianist family."

— ANDY GILLIARD

If you would like to learn more about the Lay Marianist Community of Denton, please contact Andy Gilliard at 940-323-8693.

Teaching By Example

The Importance of Prayer in a Child's Life

“I want to be just like Mom!”
“I want to be just like Dad!”

Perhaps nothing lifts a parent's heart like hearing these words. While certainly affirming, such words also remind us of the great responsibility that comes with parenthood.

Children often examine the lives of their parents when making decisions that will affect their own lives. For example, a young boy may dream of becoming a physician one day, just like his father. Or a young girl may hope to become a veterinarian, just like her mother. Could the same be said about their parents' faith lives?

Just as children learn traits and values from their parents, they should also learn the importance and great joy of developing a personal relationship with Christ. And the foundation of such a relationship is prayer — conversation with God.

How should we go about teaching our children to pray? There are several methods, but none works as well as teaching by example. Begin teaching the importance of prayer by praying openly with your spouse. This teaches children that prayer is meaningful and important, and not just a ritual. Also, pray with your children — in the morning and in the evening. Show your sons and daughters the importance of beginning and ending each day in prayer.

While a fortunate dilemma, it's a dilemma nonetheless — Catholics face the challenge of discerning which prayers to use, considering the thousands available. A good rule of thumb is to start simple — maybe an Our Father or Hail Mary, and then move into something more complex — Hail, Holy Queen or Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, among others. Begin with prayers your children can pick up fairly quickly. Not only will this show them that praying can be fun and easy, but shorter prayers are also usually easier to understand.

Teach your children the importance of spontaneous prayer, rather than just prescribed prayers. Spontaneous prayer is any prayer that is created at the same time it is offered. Another way to think of spontaneous prayer is “praying in your own words.” Structure spontaneous prayers according to the ACTS acronym — Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. In layman's terms, this means beginning each prayer with words of adoration, such as “You are the Lord God

Almighty. I love you.” Move into a period of contrition, asking God's forgiveness for the sins you have committed. Then, give words of thanksgiving, thanking God for the gifts He has given. Finally, spend time sharing with God your heart's desires. These intentions can be personal or on another's behalf. Following this format ensures that spontaneous prayer “covers all the bases,” and doesn't become just a mental wish list. While God wants to hear and grant our wishes, He also expects words of adoration, contrition and thankfulness.

The best time to begin praying with your children is right now. The sooner they learn about prayer, the sooner they can begin cultivating their own relationship with Jesus. Many parents even pray with their children before birth, hoping their unborn son or daughter can hear their words in utero. Remember, there is no better way to teach one's children about the value of prayer than by example.



PARISHIONER PROFILE:

DENNIS AND CARA PETTIT

Living Examples of Stewardship in Our Parish Community

Members of St. Mark for 26 years, Dennis and Cara Pettit have been involved in a number of ministries since they first joined our parish. Cara has participated in the ACTS Retreat Ministry, the Welcoming Committee, and Women's Small-Group Faith Sharing. Dennis has been involved as an usher, a member of the Knights of Columbus, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and a lector. He has also served as a member of the ACTS Retreat Ministry and an RCIA catechist. For the Pettits, involvement in parish life was, at first, an unusual step to take.

"I think it is safe to say that Cara and I were both 'pushed' a bit beyond our comfort zones when we first got involved at St. Mark," Dennis says. "I think for me, it all started with someone asking me. It was a simple request for help from another guy. Don Padack and Dan Greico simply asked me to help usher at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. I said, 'okay' — and next, the Knights of Columbus, then ACTS."

For Cara, the desire to get involved came from seeing the impact that the ACTS Retreat had on Dennis. Seeing how this retreat affected him and his faith journey made it an easy decision for Cara to get involved.

"One of the biggest surprises I would say in engaging with a faith community is the spiritual growth aspect," Cara says. "We are all part of the Mystical Body of Christ. When we volunteer our individual talents — whatever they may be — for the benefit of others, we grow. It motivates us all to engage all the more."

The Pettits' lives have been touched in many ways by getting involved in the parish community. And it is something that they recommend to everyone — particularly because it's a great opportunity to meet some truly great people, develop lifelong friendships,



Dennis and Cara Pettit

and walk with other people who are on the same faith journey.

"None of us have all the answers, but we certainly strengthen one another along that journey," Dennis says. "Remember, we all have unique, individual talents we bring to the table."

Dennis and Cara want to encourage their faith family at St. Mark to get involved, attend an ACTS retreat or join the Knights of Columbus.

"Give and you will receive a hundredfold," Cara says. "Thank you and we love you. This is one awesome parish!"

"None of us have all the answers, but we certainly strengthen one another along that journey. Remember, we all have unique, individual talents we bring to the table." — DENNIS PETTIT

Saint Mark

6500 Crawford Road | Argyle, TX 76226
(940) 387-6223 | www.stmarkdenton.org



Summer Youth Events

Vacation Bible School

- Date: June 13-17
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Ages: 4 years old thru fifth graders
- Location: St. Mark's Parish
- Cost: \$30/child

*Please visit our website,
stmarkdenton.org/youth-ministry,
or call the parish office for more
information or to register your child.*

High School Retreat – “This is My Body”

- Date: July 15-17
- Location: Briarwood Retreat Center
- Cost: \$150 (includes registration and meals)
- Theme: This is My Body - Holiness through the grace of sacrifice and redemptive suffering.”



*All Masses can be streamed any time on the parish
Facebook page at www.facebook.com/st.markdenton*