



OUR LADY *of*  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Fr. Matt's Musings**  
April 25, 2020

*St. Mark*

Today in the liturgical year, we celebrate the evangelist, Mark. I would like to offer three points about St. Mark on his feast day.

1. Scripture scholars agree that Mark's was most likely the first gospel to be written. Mark is a trailblazer, writing a new literary form. Mark's language is simple and direct. He gets right to the point. How well do we take advantage of those moments when we are called to be first: to initiate in a relationship; to do something new or think of ourselves in a new way; to repair a fractured friendship.
2. Mark is the shortest of all the gospels, only sixteen chapters. Mark's gospel was all but ignored in the readings at Mass for many centuries. Matthew and Luke had Mark as a resource and use most of his material in their more expanded gospels. It is only in the last couple of centuries that the uniqueness and value of Mark's gospel has been rediscovered. His more brief gospel is a reminder that we do not always need a lot of words to make our point.
3. Only two of the four gospels are attributed to one of the twelve Apostles: Matthew and John. It is believed that Mark was an apostle of Peter, and Luke an apostle of Paul. It is great to conclude that the early Church valued the gifts of many and that even the twelve looked outside of their original group to honor the gifts of the community. How do we honor the gifts of others and try to hear the voice of many in the community? Finally, with Mark as our guide, how willing are we to step forward to volunteer, or do we sit back with the thought that someone else will step forward?

Happy St. Mark's Day!

**Live Jesus!**

*Fr. Matt*

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*All through love, nothing through force or fear.*

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