



**St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
January 23, 2015**

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Virtue of the Month – Self Control

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using either stories or activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Self Control" this month.

Vocations Chalice

3rd grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Reminders for Next Week

Lion's Den Spirit Store: Open Fridays, 7:30–8:15 AM; between Bacot Gym & the cafeteria

Check in at the school office and stop by for all of your St. Mark spirit gear needs! Can't come in person? Online ordering is available. See more details below.

January Brag Board – 5th Grade: Check out what 5th grade has been up to this month. Our amazing 5th grade team has put together an interactive brag board containing QR codes. Scan them using your smart phone or tablet and take a closer look at one of their projects!

Saturday, January 24, 1:30 PM, Cafetorium: Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:

Saturday, January 24-Sunday, January 25: Students represent St. Mark at Masses

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 AM, Main School Hallway: 2014 Class Composite Will Be Hung
Class of 2014 alumni and their families are invited to attend.

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Lion’s Lair Gym: Used Uniform Sale
Kids outgrowing their uniforms? Stop by after Mass to stock up on larger sizes to get them through the rest of the school year.

Monday, January 26 – Pastor Appreciation Day

9:10 AM, ECE Building: Preschool Prayer service/pastor appreciation - All are invited to attend.
9:30 AM, Cafetorium: TK-8 Pastor Appreciation - All are invited to attend.

Tuesday, January 27 – Family Appreciation Day

9:00-10:00 AM: Open House for Prospective Families
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Family Day Lunch, Student Art Show

Wednesday, January 28 – Student Appreciation Day

Buck-A-Jean, Buck-A-Tennie Day –Students pay \$2 to wear jeans/tennis shoes to school.
Ice Cream served at lunches
2:15 PM: Pep Rally – All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, January 29 – Teacher Appreciation Day

Student-Teacher Switch Day
Faculty Appreciation Luncheon
Faculty Caught Being Good Drawings

Friday, January 30 – Community and Global Appreciation Day

8:30 AM: All School Mass – All are invited to attend. This Mass will be presented by the 3rd grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

10:00 AM -12:00 PM – International Tasting Faire

12:00 NOON – Early Dismissal

The After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM. A snack will be served, and students will have eaten food samples at the International Tasting Faire. However, if you feel your child will need a more substantial lunch, please send one to school.

Friday, January 30: Memory Book Orders Due – PreK-5th Grade

Saturday, January 31, 6:00 PM, DoubleTree Richardson: Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction

Important Auction Reminders



Our Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction is a week away – Saturday, January 31 at 6:00 PM at the DoubleTree Hotel in Richardson! A few important details:

*DoubleTree is offering hotel rooms at \$89/night for those who wish to stay at the hotel on Saturday night. Bookings need to be made on or before January 26. Interested families should call the hotel directly at (972) 644-4000 and mention "St. Mark Catholic School Auction" to get the discounted rate.

*Still need to purchase your auction tickets? There's still time. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets and make your meal selections. **Each person who purchases a ticket and attends the event has a chance to win free tuition for a year!**

*If you haven't had a chance to view this year's auction video on the CD that was sent home last month, [click here](#).

*Please contact Auction Co-Chair Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com if you can assist with the following:

- Transport auction items to the DoubleTree Hotel
- Decorate for the event

Remember, all proceeds from this year's event will help put iPads into the hands of your children!

Check Those Backpacks for a Special Gift to All Families

As we kick-off Catholic Schools Week, the faculty and staff wish to take a moment to express our gratitude for each and every one of our school families. Please check your child's backpack today for a special letter and a token of our appreciation. HINT: See the top of the bulletin!

Announcing St. Mark Summer Camps!

St. Mark Catholic School is pleased to announce that summer camps are coming to our campus for the first time!

Beginning in June, we will be offering camps to students of all ages. They will be open to both St. Mark students, and those from other schools. Our goal is to provide fun and engaging activities for students who are in need of a full-day camp experience, as well as for those interested in morning camp experiences.

“Camp St. Mark” - Full-Day Summer Camps With Kidventure

We are proud to welcome Kidventure to our school for a full-day summer camp program called “Camp St. Mark.” Kidventure is in their twenty-first year of running summer camps in Texas. They work with other schools, including Catholic schools, in our area. Their weekly day camps provide an active, engaging and memorable experience, and one that we feel will enrich the opportunities for families and children at St. Mark.

“Camp St. Mark” will take place on the St. Mark campus and will serve three-year-olds through rising 7th graders. It will begin June 8 and run through August 7. Each camp week will take place Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, with the option of adding a 7:00 AM drop-off, and a 6:00 PM pick-up.

Registration for Kidventure’s “Camp St. Mark” will begin Tuesday, February 3 at 9:00 AM. At that time, you may register for any of the unique camp weeks being offered. The cost is \$210-\$220 per week, with additional fees for extended drop-off/pick-up times. Simply visit Kidventure.com/summer-day-camp to view the “Camp St. Mark” schedule and to register. You may also call Kidventure at (214) 303-9789 and speak with one of the team members.

“Lion Safari Camp” – Morning Summer Camps With the St. Mark Staff

It is our goal to offer two weeklong morning camp sessions for those students who would enjoy a part-time summer camp experience. While the details of these camps are still in the development phase, the plan is to offer the following at a cost of approximately \$75 per session:

Session I - June 8-12 – 8:30-11:30 AM

Session II - June 15-19 – 8:30-11:30 AM

These camps will be facilitated by St. Mark teachers and will include a wide range of interesting and engaging topics. More information will be made available on the part-time camps by mid-February.

Don't Wait: Participate!



Digital Wish Technology Donations: St. Mark is now accepting technology-specific donations through Digital Wish. [Click here](#) to help equip our students with iPads and iPad carts, and feel free to share this link with family, friends and associates who might like to help.



Catholic Schools Week Reminders

Catholic Schools Week celebrations begin this weekend. Please take note of a few reminders:

- *Our Catholic Schools Week daily activities and details can be found by visiting our [school website](#). Please be sure you and your child are prepared for each day's festivities.
- *Don't forget to order your child's "International Tasting Faire" tickets by January 28. [Click here for the ticket order form](#).
- *All students participate in our January All School Service Project during CSW – the "Laps for Leukemia" Walk-A-Thon. [Click here for the Pledge Sheet](#). Return one sheet per student, along with money collected, to the school office by February 13.
- *On Wednesday, January 28, students who are participating in school sports this semester may wear their team jerseys over their clothing all day, and for the Pep Rally.
- *Please spread the word about our upcoming Open Houses for the 2015-16 school year. We have two Open Houses coming up and need you to help spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in a Catholic education for their children. Pre-registration for Open Houses is available on our [website](#).

January 27 – 9:00-10:00 AM, Cafetorium
February 3 – 6:00-7:30 PM, School Library

We are looking forward to a week filled with fun and fellowship!

Ms. Tammy Needs More Lime Green Bottle Caps

Bring at least 5 lime green bottle caps to Ms. Tammy and receive a "Caught Being Good!" Sprite and Mountain Dew bottles are good sources.

News from the Athletics Department

Basketball Schedules Are Out: Plan to come out and cheer on your St. Mark basketball teams! Full schedules can be found by [clicking here](#).

This weekend's games:

Saturday, January 24

5th grade girls Gold vs. St. Augustine @ St. Augustine, 11:00 PM

5th grade girls Green vs. St. Monica @ St. Monica, 9:00 AM

6th grade girls D1 vs. St. Thomas @ St. Thomas, 9:00 AM

6th grade boys D2 vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 1:00 PM

8th grade boys D1 vs. POP @ St. Mark, 3:00 PM

8th grade boys D2 vs. Bishop Dunne @ Bishop Dunne, 4:00 PM

8th grade boys D3 vs. St. Luke @ St. Luke, 12:00 PM

8th grade girls D2 vs. St. Monica @ St. Monica, 4:00 PM

Sunday, January 25

6th grade boys D2 vs. Good Shepherd @ St. Mark, 6:00 PM

7th grade boys D2 Green vs. 7th grade boys D2 White @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM

7th grade boys D2 White vs. 7th grade boys D2 Green @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM

7th grade boys D2 White vs. SPX @ St. Mark, 4:00 PM

8th grade boys D1 vs. SPX @ SPX, 3:00 PM

8th grade boys D2 vs. SPX @ St. Mark, 1:00 PM

8th grade boys D3 vs. St. Mary-Sherman @ St. Mark, 4:00 PM

8th grade girls D2 vs. St. Elizabeth @ St. Mark, 12:00 PM

Remember to visit our fully-stocked Concession Stand during home games, as well as the Lion's Den spirit store!

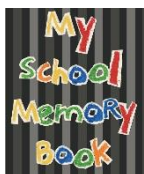
Lion's Den Spirit Store Hours: The Lion's Den spirit store is now open every Friday from 7:30-8:15 AM. It is located between Bacot Gym and the cafeteria. Check-in at the school office and shop 'til you drop for new St. Mark logo merchandise! Many of the items can be worn by students during P.E. classes. It's also open during basketball home games, and will have special hours on Tuesday, January 27 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for Family Day during Catholic Schools Week. Can't visit in person? Order merchandise online by [clicking here](#).

GO LIONS!

Home & School Association (HSA) News

Box Tops: Please keep sending in your Box Tops. Remember to place them in a plastic bag labeled with your child's grade level and teacher name. We will have another grade level competition in February!

Used Uniforms: We are at capacity on used uniforms. Please hold your donations until we announce a future collection date. Thank you!



ORDER YOUR 2014-2015 PreK-5TH GRADE MEMORY BOOK

If you haven't yet placed your order, please complete the attached order form and return it to Mrs. O'Connor no later than Friday, January 30. Memory Books are \$25.00 each. You can pay by check, or submit an online payment [here](#). If you are paying online, please enter \$25.00 in the "HSA" box, and "2014-15 Memory

Book" in the "Comments" section. Yearbooks will be distributed before summer break. If you need to find out if your order has been placed, or if there are any questions, please contact Beth Salava (bethsalava@hotmail.com) or Danielle Terhaar (dterhaar1@hotmail.com).

Catholic Schools Night At Dallas Mavericks Game

The Dallas Mavericks invite you to join them for their annual Catholic Night as they take on the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday, February 28 at 7:30 PM at the American Airlines Center. Discount tickets are available and also grant access to the Dallas Parochial League 8th Grade All-Star Game that afternoon beginning at 1:00 PM at the American Airlines Center. [Click here](#) for more information and to order your tickets.

You're Invited to St. Mark's "Celebration of Love" Valentine's Day Event

Join us on Saturday, February 14 for a Valentine's Date Night! Renew your marriage vows at the 5:30 PM Mass, followed by an evening of love, laughter, dinner, wine and dancing at the St. Mark Catholic Church Parish Center. Our own Aaron and Angela Baldwin are helping to organize this wonderful celebration. The cost is \$30 per couple. See the attached flyer for more details.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

3rd Grade Enters Writing Contest: The third grade entered the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest again this year. Each student submitted a sentence in cursive writing, and then answered a question about the importance of cursive writing. The top three students were Gabriela M., Leah Q., and Karsil O. Karsil's entry will be sent to Zaner-Bloser to compete on the national level. Good luck Karsil!

Cursive handwriting is largely disappearing from many mainstream classrooms. At St. Mark, we feel it is an important skill and continue to teach it. One reason: Research shows that handwriting instruction and handwriting skill impact students' overall literacy development and that early fine motor writing skills predict later academic achievement. Kudos to our third grade team for taking it a step further!

4th Grade Studies Hispanic Culture: 4th grade recently completed a reading unit on "Coyote School News" which taught them about Hispanic culture. One especially fun and delicious activity was making empanadas!

8th Grade Analyzes Poetry: Our 8th grade classes recently analyzed poems in Literature class and created PowerPoint presentations in their computer lab. Presentations were made during class time. Students chose to study poems by Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Langston Hughes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Emily Dickinson, just to name a few. Click on the attached file to see a sample presentation.

Current and Former Students Attend Gubernatorial Inauguration: St. Mark 5th grader C.J. W. and his older sister Emily (St. Mark Class of 2014) had the honor of attending the inauguration of Texas Governor Greg Abbott this past Tuesday. They got an up-close look at the proceedings thanks to mom, Kathy, who worked on the campaign!

5th Grade Learns About Heart Rate: School Nurse, Caroline Townsend, spent some time with the 5th graders recently, teaching them about heart rates. Students were challenged to get their heart rates up and then measure them.

March For Life: Our Respect Life Club represented St. Mark at the Dallas “March For Life” event last weekend. One of our first graders even spoke with the Bishops of Dallas and Ft. Worth!

