



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

November 6, 2015

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REMINDERS

Sunday, November 8:

-11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, School Library:
Open House (details below)

Sunday, November 8-Thursday, November

12:

-Book Fair (details below)



**A NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**

St. Mark Catholic School is a two time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education "National Blue Ribbon Award." This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!

Monday, November 9:

-Free Dress Day for student volunteers and children of parents who volunteered at the All Souls Run

-Scrip Gift Card Sales Begin

Monday, November 9-Thursday, November 12:

-Pretzel Sale, benefiting Middle School Yearbook (details below)

Wednesday, November 11:

-7:30 AM: Pastries For Parents

-Sacrament of Reconciliation - 2nd grade

-Teacher Luncheon, hosted by 1st & 7th grades

Thursday, November 12:

-8:30 AM - St. Mark Spelling Bee

Friday, November 13:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 4th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

Saturday, November 14:

-Christ Child Luncheon

Sunday, November 15:

-Children's Choir Sings at Music Festival @ John Paul II High School

Monday, November 16:

-Last day of Fall Enrichment Clubs

-6th Grade STEM Day



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 4th 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.



Stewardship:

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Stewardship" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2015-16.



All-School Service

Project: Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church. To help students understand that by serving others, they are serving God, they will participate in a required all-school service project each month. **Students will receive a homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.**

FREE DRESS DAY FOR ALL SOULS RUN VOLUNTEERS - MONDAY, 11/9

Free Dress Day: Student volunteers and children of parents who volunteered for the All Souls Run have earned a "Free Dress Day" that will take place this Monday, November 9. Please refer to the Free Dress Day guidelines on page 25 in the Parent Student Handbook.



DECEMBER WATCH D.O.G.S. DAYS NOW AVAILABLE

Dads: This is your chance to volunteer at the school and to spend some time in your child's classroom! [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of December. The sign-up deadline is November 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer. For more information about the WATCH D.O.G.S. program, please [click here](#).

PRETZEL SALE BENEFITING MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Support the Yearbook and Enjoy a Tasty Treat! The Middle School yearbook elective will be selling soft-baked pretzels to all students next week to help raise money to cover the cost of printing the yearbook. Pretzel orders will be taken during class time beginning Monday, November 9 through Thursday, November 12. Pretzels are \$2.00 each. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The warm pretzels will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on November 16. If your child would like to enjoy a pretzel, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between

November Project: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Donations

Each grade level will donate a specific item to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Students should turn in items to their Religion teacher.

Donation List By Grade Level:

Preschool - Rotel
Kindergarten & TK - Ramen noodles
1st - Chili
2nd - Spaghettios
3rd - Canned fruit
4th - Peanut butter
5th - Jelly
6th - Baked beans
7th - Pasta
8th - Spaghetti sauce

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the poor and vulnerable

Who Benefits? St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Due Date: November 16, 2015

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark will hold its first Open House of the school year for prospective families:

**Sunday, November 8
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
School Library**

Pre-registration is available at www.stmcs.net/open-house-registration.

November 9-12. Please help support the yearbook and enjoy a tasty treat!

REMINDER - PLEASE RECYCLE DRINK POUCHES



Please remind your students to recycle their beverage pouches (Capri Sun, Honest Kids, etc.) during lunch. They simply need to remove the straws and place the empty drink pouches in the special collection bin located at the front of the Cafeteria. Not only do we keep these pouches out of landfills which is good for the environment, but the school earns money for recycling them!

"OPEN YOUTH HOUSE" FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH NET TEAM

"Middle School Open Youth House" with the NET team takes place every Friday starting at 3:30 PM in the Youth House (located behind the church parking lot at 1410 Brentwood Drive). Middle schoolers (grades 6-8) can come any time from 3:30-6:00 PM. If your student would like to come directly from school, please email Principal Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net by the Thursday afternoon directly preceding the event on Friday. The NET Team looks forward to getting to know your kids over the course of the year!

"LEARN TO PRAY AS A FAMILY" ASSEMBLY

St. Mark is blessed to have two Dominican Sisters from Nashville present a prayer workshop for our families entitled, "Learn To Pray As A Family." Last year, the sisters



LIFETIME LIONS

Calling all alumni ... join **Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network!** Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. Click [here](#) for more information.

LIONS DEN

Get your official LION gear here! Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium.

Can't visit in person? [Place your order online anytime!](#)

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our Spirit Days, which are held on the first Monday of each month!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIONS DEN?



Car Flag - \$18.00

published a book on praying as a family. They will be at St. Mark on Sunday, December 6 from 3:00-4:15 PM in McGivney Hall in the St. Mark Parish Center. This workshop is for adults only. Free babysitting will be provided so that parents can attend. Topics of discussion will include obstacles to family prayer, drawing your family together through prayer, praying with your spouse, and more. Space is limited, so please take advantage of this amazing opportunity by submitting your RSVP by November 20 to stacy.oliver@stmcs.net. You can also email her with any questions you might have. [Click here](#) for more information.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING HSA DATES

Sunday, November 8-Thursday, November 12, Lion's Lair Gym (formerly Old Gym):
Book Fair

Monday, November 9- Friday, December 4:
Scrip Gift Card Sales

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 AM,
Cafetorium: Pastries For Parents (all students must be accompanied by a parent)

Wednesday, November 11: Teacher Luncheon, hosted by 1st & 7th grades

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our Room Parents for making the Halloween parties successful and fun for all of our students!

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***DPL Swim Team**

Registration Now Open:

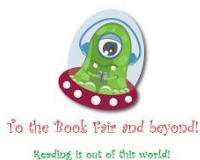
Important notice for all potential Swim Team members -- DPL has not yet announced a date for the 2015 Swim Meet. [Online registration](#) is now open for anyone interested, with the caveat that the event date is TBD. **Please do not make any registration payments until a swim meet date and venue have been confirmed.** Please visit the [Swimming](#) page on the school website and review the prerequisites for team registration. [DPL Sports Physical Forms](#) must be submitted to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

***Basketball Registration**

Now Open: Basketball registration is now open for all 5th-8th grade students. The registration deadline is December 2, 2015. Please [click here](#) for more information about the teams, fees, uniforms, the upcoming season, and the registration instructions. A

Due to the low inventory of school directories remaining, HSA will no longer be able to sell copies to current school families. We need to maintain a supply for families who are new to the school and who join HSA. Thank you for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Book Fair Volunteers Needed:

Volunteer opportunities are now available for the Book Fair. Help with set-up, breakdown, or volunteer during your child's classroom visit. [Click here](#) to sign-up for a timeslot.



Auction Volunteers Needed: Want to help plan this fun night? Contact Eric Librea

at eric.librea@sbcglobal.net, or Paola Colon at paolabcolon@icloud.com for more information and volunteer opportunities.

REMINDERS

Attention Volunteers: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#). Also, volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.

[DPL Sports Physical Form](#) must be submitted to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director, before team evaluations take place.

***Come out and cheer on your St. Mark Lions this weekend!**

Upcoming Football Games - Quarter Finals: Join our cheerleading squads, take a picture with our Lion mascot, and cheer on our St. Mark Lions!

Junior Varsity

*11/8, 12:00 PM vs. St. Patrick @ Bishop Lynch

Varsity

*11/8, 2:00 PM vs. CKS @ CKS

Congratulations to our St. Mark volleyball teams that made it to the DPL finals!

6th Grade D2

*11/7, 10:10 AM vs. TBD @ Bishop Lynch

7th Grade D1

*11/7, 4:00 PM vs. St. Rita @ Bishop Lynch

Volleyball All Star Game

Congratulations to the following 8th grade D1

Box Tops: 7th grade is leading the competition with 4th grade and 2nd grade close behind. Please continue to collect Box Tops and don't forget to put the grade level on the package before turning it in to Mrs. O'Connor.

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



To the Book Fair and beyond!

Reading is out of this world!

Visit the Book Fair! Grab a book and join us at the St. Mark Book Fair from Sunday, November 8 - Thursday, November 12! All profits from our annual Book Fair benefit the school library. Students visited today and will be bringing home their wish lists for parents to review. [Click here](#) for hours and purchase details, and don't miss our special events:

Poster Contest

All students may enter the annual Book Fair Poster Contest (one entry per student). Students should pick their favorite "alien" character and turn it into a reading poster. Any character in a book that is not from this planet qualifies (examples include Star Wars, Superman, Monster High, etc.). Use either a whole or half sheet of poster board, and crayons, markers or colored pencils. Every entry must use the title "Reading is Out of This World." Entries are due in the school office by Tuesday, November 10 at 3:00 PM. Winners will be posted in the Lion's Lair Gym on Wednesday, November 11. Prizes will be awarded by age category.

Special Events

Sunday is Family Day- This is a great

volleyball players who were selected to represent St. Mark at the Dallas Parochial League All Stars Game: Danielle A., Lindsey G., Kyanna I., and Julia R.

Additional congratulations to St. Mark coach Joe Fernandez was also selected as an All Star coach!

The DPL All Star Game will take place on Monday, November 9 at 8:00 PM at Ursuline Academy.



DPL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Attention Student-Athletes:

The Dallas Parochial League offers an annual scholarship opportunity for 6th-8th grade students. Scholarship recipients receive \$500 towards the cost of Catholic school tuition for the following year. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2015. [Click here](#) for more information and the application.

PARISHIONER TUITION STATUS/PARISH DONATIONS

opportunity for families to shop together. Stop by and get a head start on your Christmas shopping. Cash, checks, debit and credit cards will be accepted.

Wednesday at 7:30 AM is Pastries for Parents -

Come for some early morning Book Fair shopping and enjoy breakfast pastries and beverages, compliments of the HSA Hospitality Committee!



Knights of Columbus "Bingo Knight": Join the Knights of Columbus Council 6065 on Saturday, November 14 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium for their Vocations Bingo Knight benefiting Holy Trinity Seminary, the Retired Priest Fund, and numerous other K of C charities and activities. Pre-register online for \$25 by November 12 at www.KOFC-6065.org. \$30 at the door. Must be 21 years old to participate. To become a table sponsor, email mabernatis@msn.com.

All Souls Run Thank You: Thank you to everyone who sponsored, volunteered and participated in the 2015 All Souls Run! It was a great morning filled with fellowship and fun, as we ran in memory of our loved ones for All Souls Day.

Reminder: In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2015. You can pay by check (made out to "St. Mark Catholic Church") and submit it to the parish office, or to the school office in an envelope marked "parish donation." Or, you can use the church's electronic payment site by [clicking here](#). Recurring payments can also be set-up using this link. Please refer to page 11 of the Parent Student Handbook for more information about the parish donation.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is collecting bottle caps. **Currently, she needs yellow, blue, brown, and green only.** If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

BISHOP LYNCH ADMISSIONS EVENTS

Bishop Lynch invites any and all students and their families (any grade level) to attend their upcoming ["BL Sunday" Open House](#) on Sunday, November 15 at 1:00 PM, and



Fall Festival Thank You:



Plan To Kick-off Your Holiday Shopping at the Catholic High School Christmas Bazaars:

November 14 - Ursuline Academy Holiday Gift Bazaar: Support Ursuline scholarships and shop an incredible selection of unique items on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM in Ursuline's Haggar Center and Neuhoff Gym. [Click here](#) for details and the vendor list.

November 21 - John Paul II High School Christmas Bazaar: Enjoy holiday shopping with a variety of vendors on Saturday,

their [Moms' Tea and Tour](#) on Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 AM. Click the links above for more details about these events.



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with [Holy Trinity Seminary](#) and takes great pride in supporting our future priests. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:

***Join Us for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM:**

November - 15th
 January - 24th, 31st
 February - 7th, 14th, 28th
 April - 3rd, 17th, 24th

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions about the Public Masses? Call or text Agnes Denvir, VP of Vocations, President-Elect Serra Club of North Central Dallas. Cell: 214-607-2391, agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

FRENCH MASSES AT CISTERCIAN

November 21 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM on the JPII campus. [Click here](#) for more information.

December 5 - Bishop Lynch High School Christmas Bazaar: Shop a wide variety of vendors on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Bishop Lynch High School. Sponsored by the BL Brigade. [Click here](#) for more information.

December 5 - Jesuit Women's Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar: Please join us on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM on the Jesuit campus for our annual Christmas shopping extravaganza featuring more than 100 vendors selling unique, high-quality items, many of them handmade by top-notch artists and craftsmen. [Click here](#) for details and the vendor list.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Alums at Quiz Bowl: Our Quiz Bowl team reunited with three of our St. Mark alumni who were competing at the high school level at last weekend's competition: **Alonso M. '14**, current sophomore at Cistercian Preparatory School, **Minh-Huy P. '14**, current sophomore at Plano East High School, and **Minh-Tuan P. '15**, current freshman at Plano East High School.

(photo removed)

Alums Succeed on Jesuit Debate Team: **Ethan J. '15**, a current freshman at Jesuit College Prep, won First Place in the Individual Speaker-Novice Division at the University of North Texas Debate Tournament this past weekend. He competed against 80 other participants from schools across Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. **Patrick B. '12**, senior at Jesuit College Prep, and his fellow teammates on the Jesuit Debate

Mrs. Denvir extends an invitation to St. Mark French students, and any students/families who are interested, to attend the French Masses at Cistercian. There is an opportunity to do the readings, and to sample some French snacks at the end of every Mass. Masses take place at Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey in Irving every 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM. Upcoming dates: November 22, December 20, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, and May 15.



LION PRIDE!

Quiz Bowl: Our middle school Quiz Bowl competitors shined brighter than most high schools at the most recent Texas Quiz Bowl held at St. Mark's School of Texas last weekend! It's amazing that St. Mark beat 5 high schools out of 6 in the preliminary rounds, got seeded in the Top 6 teams out of 23, and into the quarter finals. Way to go Breigh P., Minh-Khanh P., Antonio M., and Aenghus D.!

Varsity Team, were the Champions of the UNT Tournament. Way to go, gentlemen!

Congratulations to **Ryan M., 2012 St. Mark alumnus** and current senior at John Paul II High School who has committed to playing soccer for the Colorado School of Mines.

Congratulations to **Conar E., 2011 St. Mark alumnus** and 2015 Jesuit College Prep alumnus, who recently earned a bronze medal as a member of the University of Delaware Crew team at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia.

Ivanka P. '14, current sophomore at Ursuline Academy, was recently announced as a member of the 2016 TPSMEA All-State Choir after qualifying at the regional level. Bravo!

STEM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ST. MARK

1st Grade Pumpkins: 1st grade's pumpkin STEM project consisted of measuring pumpkins with cubes and counting the lines on the outside to estimate the number of seeds inside. They made predictions as to whether or not pumpkins float, then dropped them in water. They do float! They scooped out the seeds and counted them. The winning group counted 286 seed in their pumpkin! They used Thinking Maps created on the iPads to describe pumpkins and to compare and contrast apples and pumpkins. They also created a lifecycle of the pumpkin, created a book, and wrote an acrostic poem about pumpkins! Nice job, 1st grade!

(photo removed)

2nd Grade Caterpillar Habitats: This week, our 2nd grade students were put into teams and began a challenge to build habitats that would

(photo removed)

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Living Saints Museum & Holy Relics: On Monday, our 8th graders presented their annual "Living Saints Museum." Each student dressed as a saint and presented a brief history of that saint's life to visitors. Our students, as well as members of the St. Mark community, enjoyed and learned from their presentations.

(photo removed)

Father Cliff also arranged for the display of several holy relics so that students could view them while visiting the "Living Saints Museum." They included relics from St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis of Assisi.



8th Grade Visits St. Maria Goretti Relics: On Tuesday, our 8th grade class visited St. Monica Catholic Church in Dallas and viewed the relics

meet the changing needs of caterpillars. Writing assignments in English class will be given throughout the course of this project and students will learn what worked and what didn't work with their designs.

(photo removed)

3rd Grade Bird Nests: This week, our 3rd graders read *Amazing Bird Nests* by Ron Fridell. In science class, they studied animal life. They were given a STEM challenge called "Stem Your Nest, aka Think Like A Bird." In groups of four, students gathered natural materials to create a bird nest that held four marbles when lifted up from a tray.

(photo removed)

of St. Maria Goretti, the Church's youngest canonized saint. These relics have been sent to the U.S. by the Vatican for the "Year of Mercy." For more information about St. Maria Goretti's story, [click here](#).

Our very own Joyce Burke was also quoted in *The Dallas Morning News* about the importance of the visit for our students. [Read the full article here](#).

Interestingly, our 8th grade students were the first school group in line to view the relics, and Mrs. Denvir and others from St. Mark were the very last ones in line, late into the night.



(photo removed)

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