



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

September 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Mark Alumni and
Parents of Alumni,

August 17 was our first day back to school at St. Mark, and suffice it to say, we're off to a great start! Our students have begun an exciting and engaging year of learning.

We returned to refreshed hallways with lots of new artwork, our school iPads are in use on a daily basis, STEM* is playing a key role in our curriculum, our fall Elizabethan play entitled "An Entertainment for Elizabeth" is in production now with Father Cliff, our Drama and Orchestra programs are taking off, and our engagement with community service projects is through the roof!



**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, and has been nominated to apply for a rare third award in 2015. This means that St. Mark students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

As always, we hope that you, as alumni, will come back and lend your expertise and support to these exciting programs and more. Opportunities for engagement with our students abound, and our students look forward to spending time learning from you! Please contact me if you are inspired to pay us a visit.

Our annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament, hosted by St. Mark alumni, is a couple days away. Anyone who can devote a Friday afternoon to golf, dinner and prizes is encouraged to participate -- family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

In addition, the St. Mark Parish Fall Festival and our second annual All Souls Run will take place on the St. Mark campus on October 31. Please make plans to join us! See details about all of our upcoming events below.

In the meantime, our Lions are back on the football field, the volleyball court and the cross country circuit -- come and cheer on our teams! A link to the fall sports schedules is included here as well.

As we enter into fall, we hope to see you in our halls soon.

Follow us and stay connected!



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited openings for the 2015-16 school year. [Click here](#) for more details.

2015-16 Open House Dates

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

Sunday, November 8, 2015
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, School Library

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
9:00 - 10:00 AM, School Cafetorium

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
6:00 - 7:30 PM, School Library

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 (Early Childhood)
4:30 - 6:30 PM, Early Childhood Education Bldg.



**LIFETIME
LIONS**

St. Mark alumni are invited to join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network. Keep up with former classmates, become a mentor to current students, and learn about

Sincerely,

Patricia Opon, Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

*Science, Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

All alumni are invited to volunteer and participate in our upcoming events. High school service hours are available for certain events. Please email the individuals below for more information. All volunteers over the age of 18 must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared.



Monsignor

Smyth Golf Tournament - Friday, September 18, The Courses at Watters Creek, Allen: Get your foursomes together and join us for the annual golf tournament, hosted by our very own St. Mark alumni! Anyone can participate: family, friends, co-workers. You'll be treated to a round of golf, dinner, and the chance to win some great prizes.

opportunities to earn service hours. Click [here](#) to register.



Get the gear! Brand new St. Mark logo merchandise and spirit wear are available in our Lion's Den Spirit Store. Order your St. Mark gear [online](#) anytime!

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY



Tomorrow, Thursday, 9/17, from 6:00 AM - MIDNIGHT, you have a chance to get up and give to St. Mark Catholic School, AND have a percentage of your donation **MATCHED** by the Communities Foundation of Texas.

Anyone can give \$25 or more by simply logging on to our donation page on 9/17: www.northtexasgivingday.org/#npo/st-mark-catholic-school -- parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, or co-workers. A percentage of each \$25 donation receives matching funds.

Planning to give \$100? Give four \$25 donations instead. The school will receive more matching funds, and you'll receive more chances to win in our raffle drawings!

PROCEEDS GO TO THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT BENEFITING ALL STUDENTS.

The registration deadline is September 17. [Click here](#) for more information and the online registration form.

Sponsored by:



Come join the St. Mark Respect Life Club at the "Hike for Life" on Saturday, September 26, 8:00 AM, at John Paul II High School. Hike for Life is Texas' oldest pro-life event. It is a pro-life walk held once a year in various locations around Texas that raises money for area Crisis

Proceeds benefit ALL St. Mark students through our Gap Fund, which helps bridge the gap between the amount of tuition each family pays, and the actual cost to educate each student. For the 2015-16 school year, this amount is \$1,280 per student.

We'll have a link on our [homepage](#), and will be keeping you up-to-date on our progress all day long, so be sure to check [Facebook](#) for the latest. In the meantime, for additional details, please click here. For FAQ, [click here](#).



ST. MARK
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Our Lions are back on the field and the court! Check out upcoming games by [clicking here](#).

AROUND CAMPUS

Quiz Bowl Success: The St. Mark Quiz Bowl Team recently competed at a regional contest among 13 area schools. They won third place, placed second overall, and 8th grader, Antonio M., received the highest individual ranking in the competition.

(photo removed)

Orchestra and Drama Kids Programs Launch: Our students are learning and having fun in our brand new Orchestra and Drama programs!

(photo removed)

(photo removed)

Pregnancy Centers and raises awareness of the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. Your involvement in the Hike will help area centers to continue their lifesaving mission. It is an event for the whole family with contests and prizes, music and hot dogs. For more information, click [here](#). To sign up for the "St. Mark Catholic School Respect Life Club" team, click [here](#). Under "Teams," click "Show All" and "Join" next to our team name. Service hours are available for participants.



Parish Fall Festival, Saturday, October 31:

Volunteer at the Festival: Want to volunteer at the Fall Festival? [Click here](#). Service hours are available.


Raffle Ticket Sales: If you would like to buy or sell tickets, please notify Raffle Coordinator Ann Rossigno at 972-533-5355.

Craft Fair Registration: [Click here](#): Craft Fair Registration Form

St. Mark Spirit Day: Our students participated in the first St. Mark Spirit Day earlier this week. The day kicked-off with our Varsity Cheerleaders teaching them a new St. Mark cheer during morning announcements, and then students had a great time showing off their wide variety of spirit wear!

(photo removed)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285 LOOKING FOR FORMER MEMBERS



Looking for Former Scouts of Troop 285!

Help us celebrate the **50th Anniversary** of the Troop's inception this coming **October 10, 2015**

The troop is seeking the names, emails and locations of former Scout masters, assistant Scout masters, and scouts from Troop 285

Please contact Sylvia Garcia-Meier at: 50th@t285.us

ALUMNI UPDATES

Two Alumni Begin Their Priesthood Journeys: We are asking our entire St. Mark community to pray for two of our own as they enter the seminary this fall and begin their discernment:

3v3 Basketball Tournament
Registration: [Click here](#): 3v3
Basketball Registration Form

The basketball tournament is open to boys and girls from 5th-8th grade. Please contact Eric Librea if you know of someone interested in playing in the tournament. Space is limited -- only four teams per division.

Want to donate to the Fall Festival or need more details? Please contact Claudine Humphries, click here for the [festival website](#), or follow the Parish Fall Festival on [Facebook!](#)



All Souls
1K/5K Run, Saturday, October 31: Registration is now open for our second annual 1K/5K run. Anyone can register, so help spread the word!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT.

[Click here](#) to sign-up for the run or to become an event sponsor. Volunteers are needed, and no job is too small. Contact

Parker T. (Class of 2011) at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, TX

Cameron W. (Class of 2008) at St. Joseph Seminary College in Benedict, LA

Gold Medal for Graduate: Tom S. (2004) won the Gold Medal in Karate at this summer's Pan American Games held in Toronto, Canada. This is currently the highest level of competition for karate. Tom (right) is pictured below with current 7th grader Zach V.

(photo removed)

A Familiar Face Returns to our Halls: Kate E. (2008) is currently serving as a substitute teacher at St. Mark. Kate attended Bishop Lynch High School, Texas Tech University where she earned both a BS and a Masters in Mathematics, as well as Texas A&M Commerce where she earned a Masters of Curriculum and Instruction. We are happy to have her back in our halls!

Alum Named One of Jesuit's Rangerettes of the Week: Jordan P. (2014) was named a "Rangerette of the Week" at the first Jesuit football game of the 2015 season.

(photo removed)

[Tiffany Duncan](#) if you can help.
Service hours are available.

FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories. One of Kyle P.'s (2005) favorite memories is going to The Pines Catholic Camp. Our 8th grade students will be visiting The Pines Leadership Program next week and will surely make lasting memories of their own!

STAY CONNECTED

Keep us posted! As we receive alumni updates, we incorporate them into our social media posts, weekly school bulletins, and alumni communications. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments -- we'd love to hear from you! Need to update your contact information? Simply contact debbie.reed@stmcs.net with all of your updates.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

"ONCE A LION, ALWAYS A LION!"

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610

[Forward this email](#)