



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

September 25, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders For Next Week
What's Happening in Lionland
Fall Enrichment Clubs Start Next Week
"Math Counts" Starts Tomorrow (9/26)
Math Olympiad Open to Grades 3-11
State Fair Tickets
School Picture Orders Due September 30
School Financial Statement
October Lunch Menu Change
October - Parish "Celebrate Our Youth" Month
Continue to Pray for Pope Francis
1/2 Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark
Catholic High School Night at Jesuit
Respect Life Club Enrollment Continues
Ms. Williams Needs Bottle Caps
Holy Trinity Seminary News
Home and School Association (HSA) News
News From Athletics
STEM Takes Center Stage at St. Mark
RenWeb iOS 9 Update
Boy Scout Troop 285 - 50th Anniversary
Don't Wait: Participate!
DPL/FC Dallas Night at Toyota Stadium
St. Mark Moms Group "Diva Night"
In Alumni News ...
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark
LION PRIDE!

REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK



**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 our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Saturday, September 26:

- 8:00 AM, John Paul II High School: Hike For Life (see details below)
- 3:00-4:15 PM, Rm. 113: Math Counts Begins

Monday, September 28:

- Vocations Week Begins (grades 10-4)
- St. Mark Career Week Begins (grades 5-8)
- Fall Enrichment Clubs Begin (see details below)

Wednesday, September 30:

- 8th Grade Visits John Paul II High School
- Teacher Luncheon Hosted by 2nd/8th Grades

Friday, October 2:

- 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.
- Anti-Bullying/Kindness Assembly immediately following Mass

Saturday, October 3, 2:00 PM, School Main Entrance: Blessing of the Pets with Father Cliff

Sunday, October 4:

- 9:00 AM, Church: St. Mark Children's Choir Sings at Mass

Monday, October 5:

- St. Mark Spirit Day
- 6:30 PM, Church: 2nd Grade First Reconciliation Meeting #1
- 6:30 PM, Cafetorium: HSA General Meeting
- 6:30 PM, Jesuit: Catholic High School Night

FALL ENRICHMENT CLUBS START NEXT WEEK

Follow us and stay connected!



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.



Faith:

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 "Faith" 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.**

Reminder: Fall Enrichment Clubs begin next week. Monday clubs will begin this coming Monday from 3:30-4:00 PM. **Unless you were personally notified otherwise, your student was placed in his/her first club choice.** Please remind your student to report to his/her club immediately after school to begin these exciting activities!

MIDDLE SCHOOL "MATH COUNTS" STARTS TOMORROW (SATURDAY, 9/26)

St. Mark is proud to continue offering the national Math Counts program to our students in grades 6-8.

Any 6th-8th grader who is interested is welcome to attend. Math Counts will begin meeting tomorrow, Saturday, September 26 from 3:00-4:15 PM in Mrs. Ostermann's classroom at the school (room 113), and will continue to meet at the same time each Saturday. Simply show up at 3:00 PM tomorrow to participate.

Math Counts provides an opportunity for students to delve into unique, interesting and complex extra-curricular mathematics. Students will cover topics ranging from introductory high school geometry to the characteristics of mathematical proof. A heavy emphasis is placed upon the application of simple concepts to challenging problems. Students apply their skills to four nationally-ranked competitions that take place throughout the school year.

Chris B., Class of 2013 and current junior at Cistercian Preparatory School, and Ivanka P., Class of 2014 and current sophomore at

September Project: Appreciation for our Armed Forces

Students will make cards for soldiers. OPTIONAL: They may also donate items for soldiers from the list below.

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

Who Benefits? Wounded Warriors & St. Michael Military Support Group

Due Date: September 30, 2015

Link: [Optional Military Donation List](#)



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.



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 St. Mark Spirit

Ursuline Academy, will administer this program.

Registration for Math Counts can be completed using the [Fall Enrichment Club Permission Form](#). Please complete it and return it to Mrs. O'Connor in the school office.

MATH OLYMPIAD OPEN TO 3RD-11TH GRADERS

The annual MEANT (Malayalee Engineers' Association of North Texas) Math Olympiad, in partnership with UTD, will be held on October 3 at 10:00 AM at the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson. Math Olympiad is a competition in mathematics to encourage young America to learn Math and Engineering and promote math skills among students. Any student currently enrolled in grades 3-11 can participate. [Click here](#) for more information, and [here for registration](#). Contact [Pam Steinkirchner](#) or matholympiad@meant.org if you have any questions.

SCHOOL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In accordance with the Diocese of Dallas Policy on Financial Management and Administration, the school's financial reports can be found via the following links:

[Statement of Activities FYE 6-30-15](#)
[Statement of Financial Position FYE 6-30-15](#)

OCTOBER LUNCH MENU CHANGE

The hot lunch menu for Thursday, October 1 has been changed to waffles, eggs, yogurt and sliced oranges.

Days, which will be held the first Monday of each month!

STATE FAIR TICKETS SENT HOME THIS WEEK



Student tickets to the State Fair of Texas were sent home with each child this week. Student tickets are valid Monday through Friday.

SCHOOL PICTURE ORDER REMINDER

A reminder that school picture proofs were sent home with students last week. Check those backpacks! If you would like to order prints, you can do so online, or by returning the order form that accompanies all proofs. Specific instructions are enclosed with the proofs. **Orders are due by September 30.**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Our community continues to pray for a safe and successful visit to the U.S. by Pope Francis. We had several St. Mark families and staffers attend various events in Washington D.C. this week. Check out our [Facebook](#)



ST. MARK
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

1966 **+ 50 YEARS +** 2016

OCTOBER -- CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH!

All St. Mark Parishioners: During the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration, various organizations and groups will be celebrated. In October, we are celebrating and honoring the youth of our parish. These groups will participate in Masses as outlined below. Please join in the celebration!

October 3-4, NET Ministry:
All Saturday/Sunday Masses

October 10-11:
Troops of St. George, Saturday, 5:30 PM
Columbian Squires, Sunday, 9:00 AM
American Heritage Girls, Sunday, 10:30 AM
Girl Scouts, Sunday, 4:30 PM
Boy Scouts, Sunday, 6:00 PM

October 18, Youth Ministry:
Sunday, 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

October 24-25:
St. Mark Catholic School, Saturday, 5:30 PM
Home School, Sunday, 9:00 AM & 4:30 PM
St. Mark Catholic School, Sunday, 10:30 AM

YOUTH PICNIC-MOVIE NIGHT: October 17 --
Families: Bring your picnic dinner, blanket and potluck dessert to share. Dinner is at 6:30 PM followed by a movie at 7:00 PM (dusk).

1/2 DAYS ARE CANE'S DAYS AT ST. MARK!

[page](#) for more details about their experiences!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***DPL Tennis Tournament**
registration for students in grades 5-8 is now open. The deadline to register is October 26 at 12:00 PM. More details and registration information can be found [here](#).

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

Upcoming Football Games:
Join our JV and Varsity Cheerleading squads and cheer on our St. Mark Lions!

Junior Varsity
*9/27, 12:00 PM vs. CKS @ JPll

Varsity
*9/27, 2:00 PM vs. CKS @ JPll

Upcoming Volleyball Games:

5th Grade
*9/26, 12:00 PM vs. St. Monica @ St. Mark

*9/26, 3:00 PM vs. POP @ St. Mark

6th Grade D1
*9/26, 2:00 PM vs. St. Thomas @ St. Joseph



Eat at Raising Cane's

Today! On each early dismissal day this school year, eat at Raising Cane's across the street from the school and a percentage of your purchase will be donated back to the St. Mark Athletic Department! **Visit anytime today between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order.** Treat your child to lunch after early dismissal, and earn money for our school!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Important Upcoming HSA Dates:

*Wednesday, Sept. 30: Teacher Luncheon hosted by 2nd/8th Grades

*Monday, Oct. 5, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium: HSA General Meeting

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: 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

*9/26, 3:00 PM vs. St. Rita @ St. Joseph

6th Grade D2

*9/26, 2:00 PM vs. St. Monica @ St. Monica

*9/26, 3:00 PM vs. St. Patrick @ St. Monica

7th Grade D1

*9/26, 1:00 PM vs. St. Monica @ St. Monica

8th Grade D1

*9/26, 4:00 PM vs. POP @ St. Mark

*9/26, 6:00 PM vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark

Upcoming Cross Country Meet:

*9/26 @ Norbuck, Dallas
JV Girls - 7:30 AM
JV Boys - 7:45 AM
Varsity Girls - 8:00 AM
Varsity Boys - 8:15 AM

For complete game/meet schedules, [click here](#).



GO LIONS!

**RESPECT LIFE CLUB
ENROLLMENT CONTINUES**


cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.

Box Tops: Keep saving those Box Tops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in.

RENWEB iOS 9 UPDATE

RenWeb has confirmed that the RenWeb apps suite is working normally in iOS 9. If you experience any problems, please contact RenWeb at 866-800-6593 or apps@renweb.com.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY



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

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



Register Now for the St. Mark Respect Life Club: This is an after-school opportunity for students in grades 1-8 to grow in their appreciation of the dignity of all human life. It is unique to St. Mark Catholic School. Monthly meetings include fun and educational activities. We invite you to learn more and to register for the 2015-16 "Respect Life Club" by [clicking here](#).

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT AT JESUIT

Attention Parents of 7th/8th Grade Students: High School Night 2015 takes place Monday, October 5 at 6:30 PM at Jesuit. All 7th and 8th grade students **ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT** are invited to attend. All Catholic high schools around Dallas will be in attendance and will be giving presentations. You and your child will be able to choose three of the presentations to attend that evening. [Click here](#) for the



With one day to go, our Respect Life Club "Hike for Life" team has already exceeded its fundraising goal, which means a prize for our entire student body! Stay tuned for more details.

Even with that great news, St. Mark is currently losing its first place fundraising spot to POP. Let's keep up the momentum so we can regain our first place title for the second year in a row!

Come join the St. Mark RLC at the "Hike for Life" tomorrow, 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 Pregnancy Centers and raises awareness of the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. 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.

**Saturday, October 31:
Two great events, same great day ...**



**Parish Fall Festival,
Saturday, October 31, 7:00 AM-10:00 PM:**

details and agenda. There is also a link on the website to view each of the school's admission policies. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about your child's potential high school opportunities!



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:

***See details about St. Mark's role at last weekend's "Spes Gregis Seminarian Dinner" in the LION PRIDE section below.**

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

October - 4th, 11th, & 25th
November - 1st, & 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

Come and enjoy a SAFE and FUN Halloween at St. Mark! The Fall Festival includes the All Souls Remembrance 5K Run, delicious food, games, vendors, raffle (cash prizes) and door prizes, book sale, craft show, obstacle course, inflatables, Trunk or Treating, and live entertainment on two stages.

Volunteer at the Festival: Want to volunteer at the Fall Festival? [Click here](#). Remember, volunteers over the age of 18 must be Safe Environment cleared. Service hours are available.

Raffle Ticket Sales: Raffle ticket sales begin after all Masses on October 3-4. Please [click here](#) if you can help sell tickets after Masses in October. Raffle tickets for sale/purchase were in the "Back to School Night Packets." Please return the money and ticket stubs in an envelope marked "Festival" to the school. If you need more to sell, please contact Ann Rossigno at 972-533-5355 or ask Ms. O'Connor at the front office.

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

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 your son or daughter is interested in playing in the tournament. Space is limited - only four teams per division.

Plan to Donate to the Fall Festival: The school is organizing a donation drive for October. More details will follow soon.

North Central Dallas. Cell: 214-607-2391,
agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or
agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

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

STEM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ST. MARK

Do Apples Float? Parts of them do! Ask your first grader about their STEM experiment where they learned which parts of an apple will float in water.

(photo removed)

ST. MARK MOMS GROUP "DIVA NIGHT"

The St. Mark Mom's Group is hosting its first fundraiser, a "Diva Night" on Saturday, October 3 at 7:00 PM in McGivney Hall at the St. Mark Parish Center. There will be speakers, vendors, make-up demos, raffles, and more. Admission is \$10 and includes appetizers and desserts. Absentee

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!

We will have a registration table in the Cafeteria every Friday morning between now and race day. Find us next to the Lions Den Spirit Store and sign-up to participate!

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



LION PRIDE!

St. Mark Has Huge Presence at Holy Trinity's Seminarian Welcome Dinner: Last weekend, Holy Trinity Seminary hosted its 11th annual "Spes Gregis Seminarian Dinner" at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. Bishop Farrell and Auxiliary Bishop Deshotel were in attendance, along with 800 guests including clergy and others from the Catholic communities of Dallas/Ft. Worth and beyond. Thanks to

raffle tickets are available for \$2.00 each. The grand prize is a \$100 VISA gift card. Tickets can be purchased at the door, at the St. Mark Parish Office, from any Moms Group member, or contact Cecilia Entsminger at cecetexas@gmail.com.

DPL/FC DALLAS NIGHT AT TOYOTA STADIUM

The first annual DPL Night at the FC Dallas soccer game will be held on Sunday, October 25 at 6:00 PM. Tickets start at \$16 each. If interested, please contact Wes Streitenberger at 469-365-0134 or wstreitenberger@fcdallas.com.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

8th Grade at the Pines: Our 8th graders enjoyed a few days at The Pines Catholic Camp this week. They learned a lot and grew even closer as a class as they participated in their leadership retreat.

(photo removed)

5th Grade Assists With Reading: Our 5th graders have been teaming up with different grade levels to read to them and, more importantly, help with reading comprehension. See the photo below of them

our own Agnes Denvir, who has rallied our community to support the seminary in so many ways, St. Mark Catholic School played a large role in making the evening a success. St. Mark alumni who are current high school students volunteered to greet guests and sell raffle tickets in support of seminary fundraising (see details under the "Alumni News" section). Middle school students made and sold rosaries in conjunction with Seminarian Ivan T., who inspired us to start our Rosary Making elective last year. Thanks to Justus B., Aenghus D., Julianna S., Julia R., Hannah B., Natalie J. and Jordan B. for working at the rosary booth and assisting with raffle ticket sales. Our elementary students contributed a "Gift Card Grove." They created a handmade drawing and message inspiring guests to purchase gift cards that were hung on tree branches at the event. Members of our faculty and staff volunteered at the registration desk, we had several St. Mark families in attendance, and Mrs. Denvir was honored to have a seat at the Bishop's table in recognition of all of her work. It was truly an inspiring event, and we are so proud of the strong support that our St. Mark community has shown to these amazing men who will become our new priests, including our very own Parker T. (Class of 2011), pictured below with Bishop Farrell. See our [Facebook page](#) for more.

(photos removed)

Three Cheers for our Lion Mascot! We are so proud to welcome our St. Mark Lion mascot to our Varsity football games! Be sure to say "hello," and take a picture with him at this weekend's game. You'll find him on the

with our second graders. They've also recently spent time with Transitional Kindergarten and first grade students.

(photo removed)

Monsignor Smyth Golf

Tournament: It was another great golf tournament for St. Mark last Friday! Players enjoyed a Friday afternoon on the course, followed by an enchilada dinner, drinks and lots of great giveaways and prizes. First place winners were John Matusik, Michael Matusik, Warren Thomas, and Bryan Ashley. Closest to the Pin winner was Michael Matusik, and the Longest Drive winner was John Matusik. Special thanks to St. Mark alum Bryan Ashley '02 for coordinating the tournament again for us this year, and to our sponsors and prize donors: Classic BMW, DalTile, Golfsmith, and The Courses at Watters Creek.



sidelines drumming up that Lion spirit with our Varsity Cheerleaders!

(photo removed)

Athletic Team Results: Congratulations to the following teams that posted wins this past weekend: Varsity Football, 5th Grade Volleyball, 6th D1 Volleyball, and 6th D2 Volleyball -- GO LIONS!

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Thank You, Alumni: A special thank you to our alumni who assisted St. Mark at the Holy Trinity Seminary "Spes Gregis Seminarian Dinner" by selling raffle tickets to help raise funds: Alonso M. '14 (Cistercian), Jace B. '15 (Cistercian), Karen B. '12 (Ursuline), Emily V. '13 (Ursuline), Elizabeth R. '14 (Ursuline), Valeria M. '14 (Ursuline), Celine M. '14 (Ursuline), Dylan C. '14 (JP II), Daniel A. '14 (JP II), Angelisa T. '15 (JP II), Scott J. '12 (JP II), and Eric R. '14 (Clark High School).

Jesuit Debate Sweeps Season Opener: Jesuit senior Patrick B. (St. Mark Class of 2012) and his teammate faced 20 of the best debate programs in the DFW area at the Plano Senior Tournament earlier this month, and won first place. Patrick also placed 5th in individual speaker awards.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)



1st Grade Apple Fest: First grade celebrated the start of the fall season this week with their annual Apple Fest. They learned how to make homemade applesauce, read Johnny Appleseed stories and more during this cross-curricular unit. The fragrance of fall was definitely in our halls on Wednesday during applesauce time!

(photo removed)

1st Grade Pope Francis Puppets: Our first grade students made Pope Francis puppets this week in honor of his U.S. visit. Kids attending the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia have the opportunity to complete this same craft, compliments of www.catholicicing.com.

(photo removed)

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