



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

September 4, 2015

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REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 7: Labor Day Holiday; No School

Tuesday, September 8, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium:
HSA Room Parent Meeting



**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.

Thursday, September 10:

-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: HSA Committee Chair Meeting

-7:00 PM, Cafetorium: Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Night/New Member Orientation

Friday, September 11, 8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass will be presented by the 3rd grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

Monday, September 14: St. Mark Spirit Day! See details below.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Let's give a warm St. Mark welcome to the new students who joined us this week ...

-Jeslyn T. 2nd grade Mrs. Brooks
-Alonso T. 6th grade Mrs. Johnson

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR FEES REMINDER

If you haven't yet paid your beginning of the year fees, please do so now. The Beginning of School Fees form must be completed, paid, and returned to the school office. This is the form to use for prefecting, party fee, activity fee, HSA membership dues, and graduation fee. [Click here](#) to access the form.

REMINDERS FOR ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

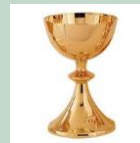
Volunteers: Please remember that anyone who volunteers at the school, including Prefect Duty, must first complete the following:

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



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.



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**

1. Sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form." This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#).

2. Volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

VIRTUS LESSONS

Each year, St. Mark presents VIRTUS lessons to our students. The VIRTUS program identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "rightdoing" within religious organizations (www.virtus.org). This year, the *Touching Safety* program will be presented to our students during the week of September 13. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Dallas, and is part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children. The scheduled lesson is being offered to all St. Mark students. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. We encourage you to [click here](#) to read the overview and lesson plan so you will be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program. If you have questions about the program, please contact [Pam Steinkirchner](#) at (972) 578-0610. If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please complete the [Opt-Out Form](#), and return it to your child's teacher no later than September 13, 2015.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY - 9/17/15!

grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.

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.



Save the Date! St. Mark

Catholic School is once again participating in North Texas Giving Day, a one day, online fundraising event benefiting non-profits in North Texas. **This year's event takes place on Thursday, September 17 from 6:00 AM to 12:00 MIDNIGHT.** Anyone can give \$25 or more on this day, and a percentage will be matched by Communities Foundation of Texas. 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. Put the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more information about how you can contribute. In the meantime, [click here](#) for additional details about NTGD.

ENDOW FALL SIGN-UP

Endow (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women to help them understand their God-given dignity and respond to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence to transform every aspect of life and society. More information can be found [here](#). St. Mark's new fall Endow study begins September 9. *Discover Your Dignity: A Woman's Journey through Life - Part I* is the first of a two-part series which invites women to ponder how the hectic reality of our life, with its obligations, home and work demands, and relationship issues, intersects with the Divine reality.

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

ST. MARK SPIRIT DAY IS COMING UP!

The first St. Mark Spirit Day will take place on Monday, September 14.

On the first Monday of each month that we are in school, students will be allowed to wear jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, school pants, or school shorts * with a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing. Students may wear any closed-toe shoe. This is a great opportunity for them to show their LION PRIDE!

Our Lion's Den Spirit Store sells a variety of shirt styles. [Click here](#) to place an online order. The Lion's Den is also open every Friday morning during the school year from 7:30-8:15 AM. Just check-in at the front desk and visit the store located in the Cafetorium.

For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the [homepage](#) of our website.

Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Smyth Pastoral Center and childcare is available upon request. [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Liz Quarles](#).



St. Mark is pleased to announce a new program for our young performers: "Drama Kids." Drama Kids is an after-school developmental drama opportunity for students in grades 1-5. Kids build drama skills through fun dress-up days, and a variety of activities and plays, including a spring performance. Classes start September 8 and will meet after school once per week for one hour (3:40-4:40 PM). The cost is \$58 per month, plus a \$30 annual registration fee. The class is limited to 20 students, so if your child is interested, please register now. For more information and registration details, [click here](#).



**WATCH D.O.G.S. NOW
ENROLLING DADS FOR OCTOBER-MAY**

We are now enrolling Dads for WATCH D.O.G.S. days at school, and are offering half days for dads who cannot commit to full days. **The deadline to register for October is September 20.** Our website has been updated for the 2015-16 school year, so visit today to learn more at www.stmarkwatchdogs.com.

*School shorts may be worn during the first and last grading periods only.



***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](#).

***Welcome to Lions Football Season!** Come out and cheer on your Lion teams!

Upcoming football games:

*9/13, 12:00 PM @ JP II - St. Mark JV vs. St. Rita

*9/13, 2:00 PM @ JP II - St. Mark Varsity vs. MIS

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



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY



Volunteer Opportunities: We are still in need of two more committee chairs:

- Memory Book for PK-5th Grade
- Scrip Cards

Please contact ashleyternan@gmail.com for more information.

The following teachers still need library helpers:

- Mrs. Young: Tuesdays - 9:00-9:30 AM
- Mrs. Brooks: Wednesdays - 12:30-1:00 PM
- Mrs. Mercado: Mondays - 10:15-10:45 AM

If you can help, please contact ebakerhrw@yahoo.com.

For more information on open positions and volunteer opportunities, please [click here](#).

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

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:

Welcome Dinner: Each fall, Holy Trinity hosts a "[Seminarian Welcome Dinner](#)" to introduce the new seminarians to the Catholic community. This year's dinner takes place September 19 at 5:00 PM at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. St. Mark will have a large presence at this year's dinner (including student and alumni volunteers), and will be honored for our ongoing support of the seminary. Tickets are available for purchase, and we encourage anyone and everyone to attend. For reservations and sponsorship information, [click here](#), contact agnes.denvir@stmcs.net, or call (972) 438-2212.

Join Us for Public Masses: Holy Trinity Seminary opens its doors on many Sundays throughout the school year so the community can join the seminarians/faculty in the Celebration of the Mass and social gathering. Visitors

Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

Please Pay Your HSA Dues: Please pay your HSA dues (\$25) by September 11. You can pay [online](#) directly, or you can print a copy of the [HSA dues form](#) and return it to the school office with your payment. Please remember that it's your dues that help to fund all of the great events and activities that HSA sponsors for our students each year. Those who pay their dues will receive a copy of the school directory, and the option to volunteer at Field Day.

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September to make sure all new families are included.

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.

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.

Important Upcoming HSA Dates:
*Room Parent Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 8
*Committee Chair Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 10

29th Annual Dinner and Auction: The [auction survey](#) will launch today and will be available until Tuesday, September 15. Please be on the lookout for a RenWeb email with a link to the survey. Your input is critical in helping us make this a truly meaningful event. Thank you so much for your support!

often include Serra Club members, scout groups, Religious Education classes and others who are interested in the formation process of priests. Mass is followed by a social (donuts) sponsored by the Serra Club. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the Seminary and meet the seminarians.

**2015-16 Public Masses,
9:15 AM:**

September - 13th
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 Welcome Dinner or 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.

**MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS
BOTTLE CAPS**

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is collecting bottle caps. She needs blue, green, yellow, orange, red, black and clear. If

The auction committee has many volunteer opportunities. Please contact Paola Colon (paolabcolon@gmail.com) or Eric Librea (ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu) if you are interested in helping out at this year's event.

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!



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.

your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

Two Alumni Begin Their Priesthood Journeys: We are asking our entire St. Mark community to pray for two of our own who are entering the seminary this fall:

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

Please pray for them as they begin their discernment.

Drill Team Kudos: Congratulations to Jordan P. (Class of 2014) who was recognized as one of the Jesuit "Rangerettes of the Week" at Jesuit's opening football game of the season last weekend.

(photo removed)

JESUIT CHEER CLINIC

Friday Night Under the Lights! Calling all Preschool-5th grade students! Join the Jesuit Cheerleaders on

Mark alumni! Anyone can participate: family, friends, co-workers. You'll be treated to a round of golf, dinner and some great prizes.

PROCEEDS GO TO THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL GYM & PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT BENEFITING ALL STUDENTS.

The registration deadline is **September 10**. [Click here](#) for more information and the online registration form.



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 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.

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

Friday, October 2 at 4:45 PM for an opportunity to learn a pregame cheer routine and perform it in Jesuit's Postell Stadium before the Rangers take on Skyline. [Click here](#) for more information.

NATIONAL PARKS PASS FOR 4TH GRADERS

Your fourth grader is your family's free pass to the nation's national parks. The federal government is giving annual passes to fourth graders and their families in an effort to get kids into the national park system to experience the outdoors and learn a little history and culture (\$80 value). For more information, and to get your free pass, [click here](#).

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

3rd Grade Science: The 3rd grade classes are studying living and non-living things. They visited the school courtyard on Monday and were challenged to identify living and non-living things by placing a hula hoop around them and logging them in their journals. As always, the favorite "living" things were our pet turtles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John!

(photo removed)



Parish Fall Festival, Saturday,

October 31:

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: Please look for your Fall Festival raffle tickets in your "Back to School Night" packet. If you would like to sell extra tickets, please notify Raffle Coordinator Ann Rossigno at 972-533-5355.

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.

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

They also learned about cells this week. They looked at onion cells through microscopes and on the class iPads.



After School Program Gets in on the STEM Act: Young students in our After School Program were challenged to build bridges out of Legos, while our older participants created environments. Very creative use of Legos!

(photo removed)

Random Act of Kindness: Special thanks to school parent, Aaron Baldwin, who (in keeping with our August service project theme), passed out Skittles and cold water to our hard-working teachers in the dismissal line last week. What a refreshing treat in the Texas heat!



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

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

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