



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

January 8, 2016

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REMINDERS

Today, Friday, January 8:



**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!

-Auction Basket Donation Drop-off: Volunteers will be available in all afternoon carpool pick-up lines to accept your class auction basket donation.

Monday, January 11:

-St. Mark Spirit Day (details below)

Monday, January 11-Thursday, January 14:

-Popcorn sale benefitting tornado victims

Tuesday, January 12:

-3:30 PM, Respect Life Club Meeting: Respect for the Imprisoned (Juvéniles)

Thursday, January 14:

-8:00 AM, St. Mark Parish Center: Diocesan Spelling Bee, hosted by St. Mark

Friday, January 15:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 7th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-Second quarter ends

Saturday, January 16:

-March for Life (details below)

Monday, January 18:

-Martin Luther King Day; No School

Tuesday, January 19:

-Third quarter begins

MONDAY IS ST. MARK SPIRIT DAY!

Monday, January 11 is St. Mark **Spirit Day!** Students may wear a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing (this includes any shirt with the St. Mark name, including Field Day



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 7th 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.



Gratitude:

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 "Gratitude" 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.**

shirts). These may be worn with jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, or the school pants. Students may wear any closed shoe. (Sweatpants, leggings, shorts, caps/accessories, and solid green/gold shirts without the St. Mark name are not permitted.)

Please follow the dress policy as written. No exceptions. For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the homepage of our [website](#).

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new students joining us this week:

PK-3:
Alex J. - Oliver

PK-4:
Joshua N. - Escobar

1st Grade:
Emerson M. - Bongiovanni

6th Grade:
Alana M. - 6W - Smith

7th Grade:
Jack B. - 7G - Orchowski

CLARIFICATION ON MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE SELECTION

Attention Middle School Families: A clarification from the last bulletin sent in December: Third quarter (9-week) elective selection for grades 6-8 takes place [next week](#). We will once again use Sign-Up Genius for registration. Parents will receive the link to sign-

January Project: Laps for Leukemia

St. Mark has consistently been a top fundraising school for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Last year, we raised \$17,000 and we hope to top that amount this year.

During Catholic Schools Week, students will walk laps during P.E. classes to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Pledge sheets will be distributed to students by P.E. coaches. Students can obtain pledges based on the number of laps they walk. (All students will walk laps, but pledges/donations are not mandatory.) A Pledge Sheet will be completed and returned to school by each student, along with any pledge money collected.

Online Donations - New for 2016:

Donations can also be made directly online by [clicking here](#), giving out of town family/friends a convenient way to donate. Online donations will be credited to St. Mark's total funds raised.

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person

Who Benefits? Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Due Date: Laps will be completed at school during the week of February 1. Pledge sheets and money are due to classroom teachers by February 19, 2016.

Links: [Pledge Sheet](#); [Online Donation Link](#)

up through RenWeb between 7:30-8:00 AM on the day you are allowed to register ONLY. If you do not sign-up on your slotted day, the school will place your child into a class of our choosing. If your child wishes to use an "Elective Free Choice Pass," please have him/her bring the elective list to Ms. Steinkirchner with the pass attached on Monday, January 11 ONLY.

*8th grade will receive the Sign-up Genius link only on Tuesday, January 12.

*7th grade will receive the Sign-up Genius link only on Wednesday, January 13.

*6th grade will receive the Sign-up genius link only on Thursday, January 14.

Remember, the day you receive your link is the only day you can register for your student's elective classes.

The list of elective choices was sent home with students before the Christmas break, or you can access it through the link below:

[3rd Quarter Elective Choices](#)

USED UNIFORM SALE

Does your child need some additional school uniform pieces to get through the remainder of the year? The Home & School Association will hold a Used Uniform Sale on Sunday, January 24 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. Volunteer and service hour opportunities are available. [Click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius. Do you have gently used uniforms to donate? Simply drop them off in the school office anytime. [Click here](#) for a flyer containing more information about the sale.



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.



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!

SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATES

Revisions have been made to the school Academic and Event calendars. Click below for the updated versions, which are also available on the school website. **Please note the changes for Field Day and middle school final exams.**

[Academic Calendar](#)
[Events Calendar](#)

REGISTER NOW FOR ENDOW

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 spring ENDOW study begins January 13. *Discover Your Dignity: A Woman's Journey through Life - Part II* is the second 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.

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](#).

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Scoliosis Spinal Screenings: During the next few weeks, the school nurse will be screening the 5th and 8th grade students (boys and girls) for signs of scoliosis. The purpose of spinal screening is to detect signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Please be on the lookout for emails with more information about this annual state-mandated screening if your child is in 5th or 8th grade.

Reminder: As temperatures are dropping, please ensure that your student is wearing a jacket and appropriate attire for the colder weather. Recess/PE will continue to be held outside until temperatures drop below 32 degrees.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? The 2016-17 application for new students is now available online at www.stmcs.net.

Be sure to spread the word about our upcoming Open House events:

Tuesday, February 2
9:00-10:00 AM

Tuesday, February 9
6:00-7:30 PM



**FEBRUARY
WATCH D.O.G.S. DAYS
NOW AVAILABLE**

Calling All "Dads of Great Students": [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of February, or for more information about our Watch D.O.G.S. program. Sign-ups are due January 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

HEARTBEATS HEALTH FAIR

MIDDLE SCHOOL POPCORN SALE

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week. **This month, all profits will go towards helping the tornado victims in Garland/Rowlett.** Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Monday, January 11 and Thursday, January 14. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, Salsa, or Vanilla. Order extra bags for gifts or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on January 19. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 1/11-14. Please help support the a local community in need and enjoy a tasty treat!

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN YOUTH HOUSE DATES

The popular "Middle School Open Youth Houses" with the NET Team resume next Friday, January 15. They take 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. This is a great opportunity for students to socialize, play games, and enjoy snacks with their peers.



St. Mark alum, Melissa N. (Class of 2008), is working with the Living for Zachary organization, which has donated automated external defibrillators to St. Mark in the past. They are hosting a HeartBeats Health Fair on Thursday, February 4 from 5:00-9:00 PM at Children's Medical Center of Plano, and invite all St. Mark families to participate. They will be offering free youth heart screenings, free health tests and medical advice, CPR and AED demonstrations, raffle drawings, food, drinks and more. Please [click here](#) for more information.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

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 week's games:

Saturday, January 9

-5th grade boys Green vs. St. Monica @ St. Monica, 2:00 PM

-5th grade boys Gold vs. MIS @ MIS 1:00 PM

**You are cordially invited to attend the
St. Mark Catholic School
29th Annual Dinner & Auction!**

When: February 6, 2016

Where: Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center in
Plano

Tickets: \$75.00

Click here to buy tickets:
www.stmcs.net/auction

**REMINDER FOR ALL KINDERGARTEN - 2ND
GRADE FAMILIES:** Your pre-auction mixer is
being held tonight at the Russo home! Check
your email for the event details and plan to join
your fellow parents for an evening of fun and
support for the auction!



**JOIN THE RESPECT LIFE CLUB
AT THE 2016 MARCH FOR LIFE**

Your families are invited to participate in the
Annual March for Life on January 16 at the KBH
Convention Center in downtown Dallas. A
complete schedule of events and more
information can be found [here](#). This year, we will
have complimentary bus transportation
departing from and returning to St. Mark after
the event if your family would prefer not to drive
down alone.

The bus will depart at 12:00 PM from St. Mark
and arrive at the convention center in time for
the 1:00 PM Memorial Mass. We will then
participate as a group in the short march to the

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

-6th grade boys D1 vs. St.
Patrick @ St. Patrick, 12:00
PM

-6th grade boys D2 vs. Good
Shepherd @ St. Mark, 12:00
PM

-6th grade girls Gold vs. St.
Elizabeth @ St. Elizabeth,
10:00 AM

-6th grade girls Green vs. St.
Philip/St. Augustine @ St.
Mark, 1:00 PM

-7th grade girls vs. CKS @
CKS, 11:00 AM

-8th grade boys D2 Green vs.
CKS @ St. Mark, 3:00 PM

-Varsity boys D3 vs. St. Mary-
Sherman @ St. Mary, 12:00
PM

-8th grade girls vs. MIS @ St.
Mark, 2:00 PM

Sunday, January 10

-5th grade boys Green vs.
St. Elizabeth @ St. Elizabeth,
2:00 PM

-5th grade girls Green vs. SPX
@ St. Mark, 12:00 PM

-6th grade boys D1 vs. St.
Paul @ St. Mark, 3:00 PM

-6th grade girls Green vs.
Collins @ Collins, 1:00 PM

-7th grade girls vs. Holy
Family @ Holy Family, 12:00
PM

-8th grade boys D2 Gold
vs. All Saints @ All Saints,
2:00 PM

Federal Building and stay for part of the rally. We plan to be back at St. Mark by 4:45 PM.

12:00 PM: Bus departs St. Mark
1:00 PM: Memorial Mass @ KBH Conv. Ctr.
2:30 PM: March and Rally
4:00 PM: Bus departs from KBH Conv. Ctr.
4:45 PM: Bus returns to St. Mark

This is not a field trip or school-sponsored event. A transportation waiver must be completed and either emailed to stmarkrlc@gmail.com, or returned to the school office prior to boarding the bus. Parents must accompany their students/children on the bus and throughout the event.

There are a limited number of seats on the bus so please RSVP to stmarkrlc@gmail.com if you plan to attend and include how many seats you will need.

Service hours are available for middle school students who participate in this event. RLC members are encouraged to wear their yellow club shirts for the March to help identify our group. Non-members are welcome to wear other St. Mark shirts or yellow gear.

Following is a letter from Bishop Farrell inviting families and youth to attend this family-friendly event, as well as the transportation waiver. We hope you will make plans to join us!

[Bishop Farrell Letter](#)
[Transportation Waiver](#)

-Varsity boys D3 vs. St. Cecilia @ St. Mark, 4:00 PM
-8th grade girls vs. St. Monica @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM

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

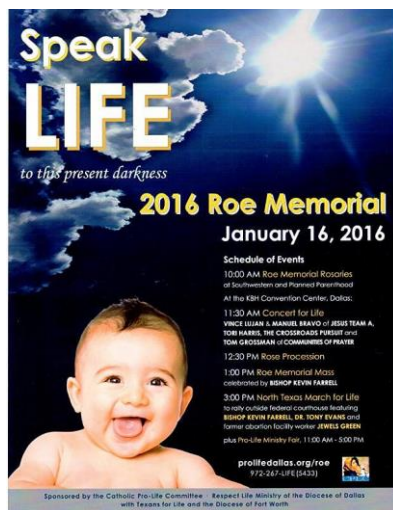


ST. MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH PAST/PRESENT CLERGY

Join past/present clergy in celebrating St. Mark's milestone 50th anniversary on Friday, January 29, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. Share memories while enjoying appetizers, gourmet fire-oven pizzas and other Italian fare, wine, beer and desserts. [Click here](#) for further details.

CATHOLIC NIGHT WITH THE DALLAS MAVERICKS

Help kick-off National Catholic Schools Week and be part of the 3rd annual Catholic Night with the Mavs on Sunday, January 31 at 6:00 PM. Reduced ticket prices are



IMPORTANT UPCOMING HSA DATES

Wednesday, January 20: Teacher Luncheon hosted by TK, K, 6th Grade

Sunday, January 24: Used Uniform Sale, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym (details above)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Library Helpers Needed: The following classes are in need of a few more Library volunteers: Mrs. Young- TK (Tuesdays 9:00-9:30), Mrs. Thompson- K (Mondays 1:45-2:15), Mrs. Brooks- Grade 2 (Wednesdays 12:30-1:00), Mrs. Eisele- Grade 2 (Tuesdays 12:30-1:00), Mrs. McCormick- Grade 3 (Wednesdays 9:00-9:30), and Mrs. Mercado- Grade 4 (Mondays 10:15-10:45). Please contact Femina Pereira at pfemina@gmail.com if you are available or have questions. The number of volunteers per class

available. [Click here](#) for more details.

URSULINE BEARS BASKETBALL

Attention Middle School Students: The Ursuline Bears Basketball team invites you to their District game against John Paul II High School. Wear your school jersey and receive free admission to the game. There will be games and drawings during halftime and time-outs, so wear your basketball shoes!

Date: Friday, January 29, 2016

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Jane Neuhoff Athletic Center Gymnasium @ Ursuline Academy

Questions? Contact Steve Barth, Head Basketball Coach at sbarth2@sbcglobal.net or 214-202-0002.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is still in need of **YELLOW** bottle caps only. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

determines how often each volunteer is scheduled to help.

Junior Achievement: Help needed! We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: Thompson, Crider, Ostermann, and Ferri. JA classes span five weeks, and each class is 30 minutes long. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Frye at Kathleen.Frye@yahoo.com.



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

If you know of families that are in need of help because of a birth, sickness, death, or any life changing event, please [click here](#) to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

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

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:**

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

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

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



Box Tops: 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.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Robotics Elective Video: Students in our Robotics elective created some unique robots during the first semester. [Click here](#) to see a video featuring these robots. The video was produced by 7th graders Madelyn B. and Ella P., and is now posted on the Robotics page of the school website.



Boy Scout Troop 285: St. Mark Troop 285 has had a productive couple of months. They recently attended a shooting campout, assisted the Cub Scout Pack during their December hike, held a White Elephant Christmas gift exchange, and attended a winter campout at Heritage Farmstead in Plano where they earned a number of merit badges. Interesting in joining their adventures? Contact [Ron Imel](#).

(photo removed)

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: January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, and May 15.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Alums Impress at Speech/Debate: Ivanka P. and Valeria M. (Class of 2014) are members of the Ursuline Academy Speech/Debate team. They've both recently posted some impressive results. Ivanka placed sixth in Original Oratory at the Lovejoy High School Tournament, and was a semi-finalist in the same category at the Plano West High School Tournament. At the Creekview High School Tournament, Ivanka placed sixth in Impromptu Speaking, and Valeria qualified as a semi-finalist in the same category. [Click here](#) for more. Congratulations to them!

Alums Combine Service and Fun at Ursuline Academy: Alumni Samantha B. (2013) and Elizabeth R. (2014) are both heading up student organizations at Ursuline Academy. Samantha is the current Co-President of

the Refugee Awareness Club which promotes awareness for refugees in Dallas through reading circles, carnivals, and fundraisers. Learn more [here](#). Elizabeth started the Bears from Bears Club with the mission of conducting teddy bear drives benefitting children at area hospitals and advocacy centers, and organizing community service projects at those organizations. Learn more [here](#).

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