



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

September 29, 2016

### Prayer for the 2016-17 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

### St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would Jesus Christ with all our hearts, mind and soul.

## REMINDERS

### TODAY, Thursday, September 29:

-12:00 PM: Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 6:00 PM.



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Raising Cane's Fundraiser: Place your order, mention St. Mark, and a percentage goes to our Athletics Dept.

### Friday, September 30:

-No school for students: UD Ministry Conference

### Sunday, October 2:

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

### Monday, October 3:

-St. Mark Spirit Day! Please refer to page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for dress code details.

-8:00 AM, Rm. 142: Community Prayer Team Meeting



A National School of  
Excellence

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connected!



## QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Limited Openings for  
2016-17](#)

**Wednesday, October 5:**

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: HSA General Meeting

**Thursday, October 6:**

-8th grade visits John Paul II High School

**Friday, October 7:**

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by the 4th grade. All are welcome.

-9:30 AM, Bacot Gym: "St. Mark: Making a Difference in Our Community for 35 Years" Assembly (details below)

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - DIFFERENTIATION**

Dear Parents: Each month, I will be highlighting a special aspect of our school in an effort to ensure that you are fully aware of what St. Mark offers to your children. During the upcoming month, I want to bring your attention to our use of "differentiated instruction" in our classrooms. We teach the same lessons to all students but in different ways (depending on abilities), with the net result of hard working students at all levels. Here are some examples:

**Small Groups:** Teachers use different teaching approaches to meet the diverse needs of all students. Whole group instruction is used where needed, but it is in flexible small groups where students spend the majority of their class time: Flexible because teachers move students in and out of groups based upon students' instructional needs. Through small groups, teachers can re-teach an idea or skill for struggling learners, or extend the thinking or skills of advanced learners.

**Choice:** Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the affective dimensions of learning, such as intellectual and social dispositions and habits of the mind. One way teachers implement this is through the use of "Choice Boards" when appropriate. Choice boards give students options of how to express required learning by providing activities geared to different learning styles, interests, and levels of thinking. They may choose to create a puppet show, write a letter, or develop a mural with labels to complete a specific lesson.

**Tiered Activities:** Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student, and accommodating those with special learning needs as fully as possible. Teachers use tiered activities through which all learners work with the same important understandings and skills, but proceed with different levels of

[Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)  
[Lunch Menus](#)  
[Safe Environment Training](#)

**FAITH IN ACTION**



**October - Friendship:**

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 "Charity" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2016-17.



**October All School**

**Service Project:** Collection for St. Mark Fall Festival

Teachers will provide information on grade-level donations.

**Catholic Social Teaching:**

Call to family, community and participation

**Due Date:** Friday, October 28, 2016



Minutes from the August 25, 2016 School Advisory

support, challenge, or complexity. Resource teachers are utilized as needed.

In a nutshell, St. Mark teachers strive to meet each student "where they are" in the learning process, with the overall goal of "pushing" students to meet their potential, and "pulling" up those students who need extra assistance.

To see more for yourself, be sure to stop by our new "Spotlight" display case that is located in the front lobby the next time you are on campus. And of course, if you have questions, my door is always open.



Patricia Opon  
Principal

## FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

### Parish Donation

In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2016. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that did not meet the \$800 minimum will be sent out in late January 2017.

If you have any questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard in the parish office now to avoid the year end rush. Nadya can be reached at (972) 423-5600 ext 258 or [ncollard@stmarkplano.org](mailto:ncollard@stmarkplano.org).

Payment options:

- check (payable to "St. Mark Catholic Church") may be placed in the weekly collection basket or dropped off at the parish office
- electronic payment accessible by clicking [here](#), please note that recurring payments can also be set-up using this link
- please do **NOT** send your payment to the school office or use the school's electronic payment site

A few reminders from the parish office:

- The parish office is not notified when an electronic payment is declined or stopped (ie credit card expiration date as in the case of recurring payments). It is the responsibility of the family to monitor their bank and credit card statements to ensure the payments are successful.

Council meeting are now available [online](#).

## CORRECTION: DUKE TIP QUALIFIERS

7th grader, Alonso T.'s name was inadvertently omitted from the list of 2016 Duke TIP qualifiers in last week's bulletin. We apologize for the oversight.

## ROSARY

October is Rosary Month. Each Wednesday morning in October at 7:30 AM in the Cafeteria, we will be saying the Rosary. Everyone, including parents, is invited to participate. If your child comes to early morning drop-off, please have him/her bring a rosary on Wednesdays.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SUBS NEEDED

The St. Mark After School Program is in need of substitute workers. Subs earn \$15.00 per hour, and if their children attend school at St. Mark, they may attend the program for free. Flexible schedules are available: Arrive at 3:15 PM and work until 5:00 or 6:00 PM. Interested? Contact [Toni Jobs](#).

## M.E.A.N.T. MATH OLYMPIAD

- If you are putting cash in the collection baskets, you must use your parishioner envelopes. It is the only way to ensure the donation will be credited back to your name.

### **School Financial Statements**

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](#)

[Statement of Financial Position](#)

### **WANTED: ST. MARK CAREER DAY VOLUNTEERS**

St. Mark Career Days will take place in grades 1-4 on October 12-14. We invite parents of students in grades 1-4 to come into our classrooms and talk to our students about their occupations. Two timeslots lasting 15 minutes each are available on each of these three days (2:45-3:00 PM and 3:00-3:15 PM). This was a huge success last year, and our students look forward to learning from you again. If you would like to introduce our students to your career, please [click here](#).

### **ST. MARK: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR 35 YEARS**

Next Friday, October 7 at 9:30 AM in the Bacot Gym, we are proud to present a special assembly to our students called "St. Mark: Making a Difference in our Community for 35 Years." A representative from U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson's office, Texas State Senator Van Taylor, and Texas State Representative Jeff Leach will be talking with our students about the upcoming election cycle, our duties as citizens, and the importance of community service. They will also be kicking-off the yearlong celebration of St. Mark Catholic School's 35th anniversary, which will culminate in August 2017. Our 4th graders will present a number from their "America, My Home" fall play, Boy Scout Troop 285 will present the flag and Pledge of Allegiance, Student Council officers will present commemorative gifts to our honored guests, and all students will participate in a song. Parents are invited to attend, and a special seating area will be provided. **Students who participate in any scouting organization are encouraged to wear their scout shirt, vest, and/or sash to school that day with their school uniform (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, American Heritage Girls, Troops of St. George, Adventure Guides & Princesses).**



**HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

The Annual M.E.A.N.T. Math Olympiad, in partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas, will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at UTD, Richardson. Math Olympiad is a competition to encourage young America to learn Mathematics and Engineering and promote math skills among students. Any student currently enrolled in grades 1 through 11 can participate in the event. [Click here](#) for more information/ registration.



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



**The Best Catholic Content. All in One Place.** FORMED is an online program to help you on your faith journey. St. Mark Catholic Church is offering unlimited access to the best ebooks, talks and

### **SCHOOL DIRECTORIES:**

Due to the short week, School Directories will be delivered to families next week.

### **THANK YOU:**

A very special thank you to all of the 2nd and 8th grade parents and volunteers who made Wednesday's Teacher Luncheon such a great success! The faculty lounge was turned into an "Italian trattoria," and the staff absolutely loved it!

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Three Committee Chair positions are open. Please contact [ashleyternan@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyternan@gmail.com) if you are interested:

- \*Hospitality Committee Co-Chair
- \*Graduation & Confirmation Co-Chair
- \*Auction Class Basket Coordinator

### **ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM**

**September's prayer intention for our school:** For our teachers, our students, and the safety of our school.



**A Request for Help:** October is Rosary month. One of the ways the school celebrates this month is by saying the Rosary every Wednesday morning at 7:30 AM in the Cafeteria. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. **We are in need of parents to help the children follow along with the rosary. If you are able to help during one or more Wednesdays, please sign up [here](#).**

**This Week's Prayer:** A Prayer For Students: *Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

**\*Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3 at 8:00 AM, Room 142 near the Music Room.** Please send any prayer requests you have to [kathleenfrye@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenfrye@yahoo.com). Please indicate if your prayer can be shared, or should be kept confidential. You can also

videos in the Church today! This content is free and can be accessed from any electronic device. For details on these exciting programs and links to them, [click here](#).



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

Join Holy Trinity Seminary for upcoming Public Masses on October 2 and 9 at 9:15 AM at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM  
ATHLETICS

### **Upcoming Games**

Football and Volleyball seasons are in full swing! [Click here](#) for this weekend's game schedules.



**GO LIONS!**

### **DPL Sports Team Registrations:**

\*The DPL **Tennis** Tournament will take place on November 12 at Collin College in Plano. Registration is now open. [Click here](#) for more details.

\*The tentative DPL **Swim** Meet date is Wednesday, October 24 at Loos Center in Addison. **Registration is**

place any prayer requests in the Prayer Box on our school Prayer Table (located in the hallway between the Administration offices and the cafeteria). We will pray over these intentions during our meeting.

**\*Join our school in praying the rosary during the month of October:** Wednesday mornings, 7:30 AM, in the Cafeteria.

**\*Our next Community Prayer Walk will be held on Friday, October 21.** Meet by the cross in front of the Narthex at 7:50 AM. If you have time after the walk, please attend the All School Mass at 8:30 AM.

## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

A few scenes from this week. To learn the stories behind these pictures, visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

### 2nd Grade Field Trip to Dallas World Aquarium:



Alumni Visit:



3rd Grade Maple Leaf Tangram Quilt:

now OPEN. [Click here](#) to register for Swimming.



**All Souls**

### Remembrance 1K/5K Run:

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 29! [Click here](#) for registration and information.

### Sponsorships Available:

We are currently seeking sponsorships, and are offering incentives to anyone who solicits \$250 or more:

\*Any athlete who raises over \$500 in sponsorships receives a St. Mark Letter Jacket!

\*Any athlete who raises over \$250 in sponsorships receives a certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store to purchase the gear of their choice!



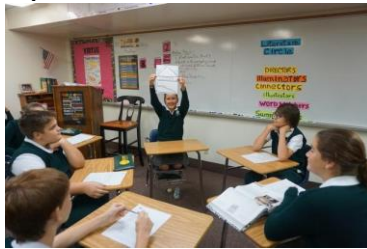
**Monsignor**

**Smyth Golf Classic:** This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email Marlene Ehring if you are interested.

**FALL FESTIVAL**



7th Grade Literature Circles:



Robotics Pringle Challenge:



7th Grade Science:



Students/Alumni Volunteer at Spes Gregis Dinner:



**Raffle Tickets**

Raffle tickets were sent home today with the oldest child in each family. They are also being sold after all weekend Masses in the Bethany Narthex.

**Volunteer!**

Your help is needed to make this fun-filled, community-building fundraiser a success. [Click here](#) to sign-up for a volunteer slot.

**For More Information**

Contact Fall Festival Chair Darrel Sharpe at 443-955-4863 or [darrel.sharpe@gmail.com](mailto:darrel.sharpe@gmail.com), or Co-Chair Sarah Sharpe at 443-670-2100 or [sjsharpe@gmail.com](mailto:sjsharpe@gmail.com) for more details. Check the Fall Festival [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for even more information.

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**Quiz Bowlers Shine:**



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