



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**February 5, 2016**

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## REMINDERS

### Saturday, February 6:

-Sweethearts Gala Dinner & Auction

### Monday, February 8:

-Free Dress Day for all students who attended any Mass at any parish in uniform on 1/30-31



**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!**

**Tuesday, February 9:**

-Spring Picture Day (students should be in complete uniform including the school sweater)

-Respect Life Club Meeting: Respect for the Military

-6:00 PM, Library - Open House for Prospective Families

**Wednesday, February 10:**

-8:30 AM, Church: Ash Wednesday Mass

**Friday, February 12:**

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 6th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

**Monday, February 15:**

-President's Day: No School for Students

**RE-REGISTRATION FOR 2016-17 BEGINS TODAY**

Re-registration for the 2016-17 school year begins today, February 5 and lasts through February 19. Please be on the lookout for a separate email from Business Manager, Annette Vela, which contains complete details and instructions.

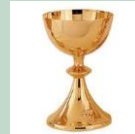
**TENTATIVE 2016-17 ACADEMIC CALENDAR AVAILABLE**

A tentative 2016-17 Academic Calendar is available on the school website. [Click here](#) to access it. The 2016-17 Events Calendar will be available at a later date.

**RAISING CANE'S FUNDRAISER TODAY**



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND**



**Vocations**

**Chalice:** 6th 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.



**Honesty:**

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 "Honesty" 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.**

**BECAUSE OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROJECTS WILL OVERLAP SLIGHTLY, WE'RE**



**Plan to 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 family, and earn money for our school!

### ART SHOW MASTERPIECES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Did you miss your opportunity to purchase your child's masterpiece at Tuesday's Student Art Show? It's not too late. See Ms. Williams to make a donation to our Fine Arts Department and take your masterpiece home!

**A special note to Kindergarten families: Every Kindergarten student had a silhouette portrait, as well as their version of a Picasso, in the Art Show. The silhouettes are a coveted St. Mark tradition, and trust us, you will want your child's as a keepsake! Please stop by Ms. Williams' room to claim yours.**



### MARCH WATCH D.O.G.S. SIGN-UPS NOW AVAILABLE

### INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT BOTH BELOW:

#### **January Project:** Laps for Leukemia

St. Mark has consistently been a top fundraising school for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in North Texas. 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.

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

**February Project:** Book Drive

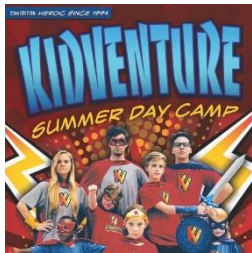


**Calling All "Dads of Great Students":** [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of March, or for more information about our Watch D.O.G.S. program. Sign-ups are due February 15. Half days and full days are available. Remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer as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

### SCHOOL SWEATER REMINDER

A friendly reminder: As most of you are aware, we changed our policy on sweater monograms last May, effectively removing student names from the front of the school sweaters/vests. This was done as a safety precaution, based on best practices recommended by the Plano Police Department. As a result, please remember to put your child's name on the inside of all sweaters/vests (and all other school uniform pieces). The front office is seeing more and more lost sweaters. A name on the inside helps the school return it to its rightful owner. Thank you for your cooperation.

### START PLANNING SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!



**St. Mark Summer Camps With Kidventure:** We are pleased to once again offer full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure. Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is **Summer Quest 2016**, a comic book come to life. Each week provides a new and unique adventure.

St. Mark students are asked to bring in a gently used book to share with a fellow Catholic school working to build a library. Books should be turned in to classroom teachers.

**Catholic Social Teaching:** Call to family, community and participation.

**Who Benefits?** Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Community

**Due Date:** Friday, February 26



**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!

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp begins at 9:00 AM on February 9. At that time, you and your child can select their Summer Quest adventures.

For more information, please visit <http://kidventure.com/plano-summer-camp/>, or call [214.303.9789](tel:214.303.9789).

For registration starting at 9:00 AM on February 9, click here: <http://kidventure.com/register/>.

### DADDY-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART DINNER & DANCE

The St. Mark Girl Scouts invite all dads and daughters to attend their annual Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dinner & Dance on Friday, February 19 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the St. Mark Cafetorium. Enjoy dinner from Olive Garden, a dance and dance contest, a raffle for an American Girl doll of the year, and more. [Click here](#) for more details.



### HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

#### IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

**Saturday, February 6:** Sweethearts Gala & Auction. Please join us for a fun night and help raise money for our school!

**Wednesday, February 17:** Teacher Luncheon, hosted by Preschool and 5th grade. Parents of these students should be on the lookout next week for an email and Sign-up Genius.

#### HELP NEEDED:

Preschool-5th grade Memory Book pictures are needed. If you have pictures of Preschool-5<sup>th</sup>

### 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](http://www.stmcs.net).

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

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

**\*We have new "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general information and Open House dates. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. [Click here](#) to see a sample.**

### NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school! Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family

grade students, please download them directly to the memory book website (school activities, band, music, plays, spirit day, sports and candid). Please make sure the photos that are downloaded are not blurry, and are from a high resolution camera. A lot of pictures are taken with smartphones these days and unfortunately, the resolution isn't high enough, so those photos cannot be used in the memory book. Here's how to download the pictures:

Go to [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com).

Type: St Mark (for the name, capital "S," no period after "St").

Click on "St Mark lower school"

Click on "Community upload" button

Access code: stmarklions

#### **THANK YOU:**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the Ice Cream Social! The students really look forward to having ice cream after their lunch on Student Appreciation Day!

Thank you to the Room Parents, Auction Craft Coordinator, and Auction Basket Coordinator for all of your hard work putting the auction crafts and baskets together. And thank you to all of the parents who donated items for the auction. Your generosity is much appreciated! Let the bidding begin on Saturday night!

#### **REMINDERS:**

##### **Helping Hands Committee:**

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to 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.

to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

### **BOY SCOUT SPRING PLANT SALE**



**Begonias,**

**Impatiens, Lantanas,**

**Petunias, Purslanes, Pentas,**

**Vincas! St. Mark Boy Scout**

Troop 285 will be selling spring flowers after each Mass this weekend, February 6 and 7. These high-quality plants are provided by St.

Mark parishioner and school parent, Steve Bayouth, from Bruce Miller Nurseries. The cost is \$15.00 per flat (no mixing of flowers), and cash, credit cards or checks payable to Troop 285 are accepted. Proceeds from this sale will help fund troop activities and help individual scouts earn money for scouting camps.

**Pick-up takes place April 9 at the St. Mark field from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.** You can also prearrange delivery with the troop. Questions or preorders? Contact Mark Hoops at (214) 676-0190. **The young men of St. Mark Boy Scout Troop 285 THANK YOU for your support!**

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



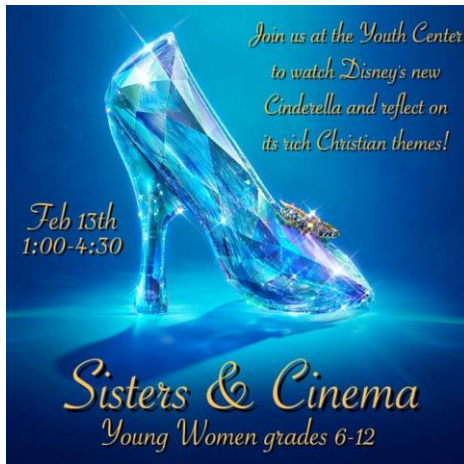
**Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for St. Mark:** Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.



**Box Tops:** The Box Top committee is going to start counting the Box Tops for the next class contest. If you have any Box Tops sitting at home, please send them in.

### FROM THE NET TEAM

**Sisters & Cinema:** This one time event will be held February 13 from 1:00-4:30 PM for young women in grades 6-12. They will watch the 2015 *Cinderella* movie and reflect on its rich Christian themes.



**Let Us Adore:** Let Us Adore is an evening of Eucharistic Adoration led by the NET Team that is full of charismatic praise and worship, as well as silence. Young and old are invited to pray together as a parish community. It will be held from 7:30-9:30 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church on February 12, March 10, March 31, April 14 and May 6.

### NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

**DPL Swim Meet:** The DPL Swim Meet takes place today, Friday, February 5 at the North Lake Community College pool beginning at 6:30 PM. GO LIONS!

#### Track & Field Registration

**Dates:** Registration is now open for the St. Mark Track & Field team. The deadline to register is February 17 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Track & Field page](#) on our website for more details.

#### Baseball/Softball

**Registration:** Registration is now open for the St. Mark baseball and softball teams. The deadline to register is February 15 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Baseball/Softball page](#) on our website for more details.

#### Soccer Registration:

Registration is now open for the St. Mark Soccer team. The deadline to register is February 24 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Soccer page](#) on our website for more information.

**Come out and cheer on your Lion basketball teams! This weekend's games\*:**

**Middle School Youth Open House:** This popular weekly get-together for 6th-8th graders takes place every Friday from 3:30-6:00 PM at the St. Mark Youth House, located behind the church. It is an opportunity to hang out with the NET Team and other students from the community. Notify Patricia Opon by Thursday of each week if your student wishes to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal.

### SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

**8th Grade Assists 1st Grade with Project:** On Monday, our 8th grade students took our 1st graders under their wings and helped them record stories they wrote on the Audio Boom app on the iPad.

(photo removed)

**Catholic Schools Week Fun:** It was a great week to be a member of our Catholic school community! The week began with our families attending Masses in uniform at both St. Mark and neighboring parishes. Several Class of 2015 alumni returned to campus on Sunday to witness the unveiling of their class portrait by Mrs. Opon in the main school hallway. On Monday, we showed our appreciation to Father Cliff during Pastor Appreciation Day as each grade level presented him with tokens of appreciation for all that he does for our school. We also began our Laps for Leukemia service project in P.E. classes. Tuesday brought the annual Family Day Lunch, Student Art Show and Classroom Open Houses where our entire community enjoyed lunch as a school family, visited campus, and viewed masterpieces by our talented students. On Wednesday, students and staff enjoyed wearing jeans and tennis shoes to school, ice cream sandwiches were served at lunch by the HSA, student "caught being good"

5th grade girls Green vs. St. Joseph @ St. Joseph, 2/6, 9:00 AM

5th grade girls Gold vs. St. Bernard @ St. Mark, 2/6, 9:00 AM

5th grade boys Green vs. St. Rita @ St. Rita, 2/6, 11:00 AM

5th grade boys Gold vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 2/6, 10:00 AM

6th grade girls Green vs. St. Thomas @ St. Thomas, 2/7, 12:00 PM

6th grade girls Gold vs. CKS @ CKS, 2/6, 9:00 AM

7th grade girls vs. MIS @ MIS, 2/7, 3:00 PM

8th grade girls vs. IC @ IC, 2/6, 2:00 PM

8th grade boys Green vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 2/6, 11:00 AM

8th grade boys Gold vs. CKS @ CKS, 2/6, 10:00 AM

\*Games are subject to change. Please confirm with team coaches.

**During home games, be sure to visit our fully-stocked concession stand, and stock**



drawings were held and prizes were awarded every hour on the hour, and we celebrated our student-athletes at our raucous Spring Pep Rally! Thursday was Teacher Appreciation Day where our 8th graders took the place of teachers and conducted lessons throughout the day. Faculty and staff enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and won some fun prizes during the faculty "caught being good" drawings. Today, we celebrated a special Catholic Schools Week Mass together, followed by middle school's International Tasting Faire where students sampled foods from all over the world. It was a great week for our school community and we enjoyed celebrating with each and every one of you! Be sure to check out our [Facebook page](#) for some great photos from the week!

### SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

We have another exciting engagement to announce! Congratulations to 7th/8th grade English teacher, Joyce Burke, who became engaged to David Williams just this week. That makes three upcoming weddings for the St. Mark staff!



**LION PRIDE!**

**History Bee Success:** Congratulations to the nine St. Mark students who participated in the Online Qualifying Exam for the National History Bee. **All** of them will advance to compete in the Dallas Regional Finals on Monday, March 7!

up on LION gear at  
the Lion's Den spirit store!



### 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!

### CELEBRATION OF LOVE

St. Mark Parish invites you to the annual "Celebration of Love." Renew your marriage vows and enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, love and laughter on February 13 at 6:45 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. [Click here](#) for more information.



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:

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

8th grade:

Anish K.  
Antonio M.  
Matthew M.  
Joann N.  
Minh-Khanh P.  
Charlie S.

7th grade:

Justus B.  
Aenghus D.  
Luis R.

**Reverend Thomas Clogherty Religion Scholars**

**Bowl:** Our Religion Scholars Bowl team once again rocked this annual competition! They took second place again this year, losing only to Cistercian by a thread! We are so proud of our team members' outstanding performance: 8th grader John N., 7th grader Aenghus D., 6th grader Manuela B., and 5th grader Jeremiah B. They are pictured below with Dr. Matthew Vereecke, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Dallas, and Reverend Thomas Clogherty, the competition's namesake.

(photo removed)

**CSW Poster Contest:** Congratulations to 7th grader, Zosia S., who received an Honorable Mention award in this year's Diocesan "Catholic Schools Week" Poster Contest in the 7th/8th grade category!

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](mailto:agnes.denvir@stmcs.net) or [agnesdenvir@gmail.com](mailto:agnesdenvir@gmail.com).

**IN ALUMNI NEWS ...**

Congratulations to **Emily P.**, a 2011 graduate of St. Mark and 2015 graduate of Ursuline Academy, who has been named to the Dean's List in the University of Notre Dame's First Year of Studies for outstanding scholarship during the Fall 2015 semester. Students who achieve Dean's List honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30% of students in their college.

**Grads Commit to College Sports on National Signing Day!** Congratulations to **Tristan S. '12**, current senior at Bishop Lynch High School, who committed to play football at Illinois State University, and to **Ryan M. '12**, current senior at John Paul II High School, who committed to play soccer at The Colorado School of Mines. Former St. Mark

student, **Gabe B.**, current senior at Bishop Lynch High School, committed to play football at St. Joseph's College in Indiana.

**JPII Academic Decathlon Success: Eric N. '12 and Dylan C. '14** are both members of the John Paul II High School Academic Decathlon team that recently competed in a regional competition held at Timber Creek High School. The team performed very well and won First Place Overall Team, and also placed first in the Super Quiz event.

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