



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 20, 2016

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REMINDERS

Monday, May 23 - Thursday, May 26:



**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!



-6th & 7th grade final exams

Monday, May 23:

-7:45 AM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Memory Boards Due

Thursday, May 26:

-7:30 AM: School Advisory Council Meeting

-8th Grade High School Spirit Day; Prayer Partner Farewell; Yearbook Signing

-12:30 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Parent-Graduate Luncheon

Friday, May 27:

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

-9:30 AM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Family Breakfast

-5:30 PM, School Lobby: Graduate Photos

-6:30 PM, Church: Graduation Mass/Ceremony

-8:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Family Reception

-9:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Graduate Dance (8th graders only)

Monday, May 30:

-No School, Memorial Day

-7:00 PM, Church: Children's Choir Sings at Mass

BE SURE YOUR SCHOOL FEES ARE CURRENT

As we near the end of the school year, please be reminded that all school fees must be paid in order for students to participate in end-of-the-year activities including Graduation and Field Day. Fees include library, cafeteria, textbooks, and other school fees. If you need to verify outstanding fees, please contact Annette Vela at Annette.vela@stmcs.net.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 8th 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.



Zeal: 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 "Zeal" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2015-16.

Wednesday, June 1:

-Last day to withdraw without penalty. Withdrawal notices received after June 1 will be subject to a \$300 withdrawal fee per family.

Thursday, June 2:

-Field Day (details below)

Friday, June 3:

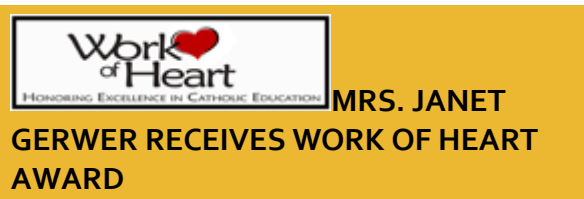
-8:30 AM, Church, All School Mass/Mass of the Holy Spirit: The Mass will be presented by the faculty. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-Last Day of School: 12:00 PM Early Dismissal

-Report Cards Sent Home

-After School Program available until 3:00 PM (details below)

-Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details below)



Congratulations to Mrs. Janet Gerwer, 7th/8th grade Math teacher. She was awarded a Work of Heart Award at the All School Mass today. Presented by The Catholic Foundation, these awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. This is the second Work of Heart Award presented to Mrs. Gerwer. Her first was awarded during the 2008-09 school year. It is fitting that this passionate and deserving



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.**

May Project: The May service project is the St. Mark Catholic School Clean Up. Each grade level will participate in caring for our school, parish, and campus during class time.

Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation

Who Benefits? St. Mark Community

Due Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2016



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.

educator is once again recognized in this way prior to her retirement at the end of this school year. For more information about the Work of Heart Award, or to submit a nomination, [click here](#). This makes 38 St. Mark staffers who have received this award since its inception in 2005.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ELECTIVE DEADLINE IS TODAY



Attention Rising 6th-8th Grade Families: St. Mark would like to offer an Orchestra Elective Class for 6th-8th grade during the 2016-17 school year. Students can choose from violin, viola, and cello. It will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the elective period from 2:45-3:45 PM (please note the extended dismissal time). **NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY** -- all the students will be beginners! Tuition will be \$70 per month (\$65 per month for those who pay by the semester, Sept.-Dec. and Jan.-May). There is a registration fee of \$25 which will cover the music and a t-shirt.

We need a minimum of 15 students for the class. At this point, we do not have

LIONS DEN

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!

LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with school sweaters with no names inside. If your child is missing a sweater, please check with the school office. Items that are unclaimed by the end of the school year are donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION REMINDERS

A few important reminders for 8th grade graduates and their families:

Monday, May 23

-7:45 AM, Cafetorium: Memory Boards Due

Thursday, May 26

-High School Spirit Day. 8th graders may wear a shirt from their new high school with their uniform pants (boys) or uniform skirt (girls).

enough to proceed, so if your student is interested, please email patricia.opon@stmcs.net immediately. The deadline to register is today, May 20.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AIDE NEEDED

Due to our ever increasing enrollment numbers in Early Childhood Education, we are once again needing to hire an additional part-time PK aide. Anyone interested should submit a brief resume to Mrs. Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

ATTENTION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FAMILIES: The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM on the last day of school, Friday, June 3. Pizza will be served for lunch, so you do not need to send a lunch that day, unless your child prefers not to eat pizza.

2016-17 TEXTBOOK ISBN NUMBERS

Updated 2016-17 textbook ISBN numbers are available on our school website by [clicking here](#). Use these numbers if you are interested in purchasing your own copies of school textbooks to keep at home.

JOSEPH THE DREAMER VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

St. Mark is offering copies of the *Joseph the Dreamer* middle school Spring Musical performance on DVD. The price for each DVD is \$10.

To place your order:

-12:30-1:15 PM, Cafetorium:
Parent-Graduate Luncheon

-2:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th
Grade/2nd Grade Prayer Partner
Farewell & Yearbook Signing

Friday, May 27 - Graduation Day

-8:30 AM, Church: School Mass
dedicated to the Class of 2016

-9:30 AM, Cafetorium: Family
breakfast; view memory boards

- 5:30 PM, School Lobby: Individual
graduate photos

-6:30 PM, Church: Graduation Mass
and ceremony

-8:00-9:00 PM, Cafetorium:
Reception for graduates and
families

-9:00-11:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th
Grade Dance (graduates only)

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING UPDATES

Parents: Summer is the perfect time to update your annual Safe Environment Training. Simply [click here](#) for details. This will ensure that all paperwork will be processed prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and you will be cleared to volunteer at all of our wonderful school activities.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their

1. Email rene.oconnor@stmcs.net and indicate the quantity you wish to order.
2. Either send a check to the school office made out to St. Mark Catholic School, or pay electronically by [clicking here](#). If paying electronically, use the "Miscellaneous" category and indicate "Spring Musical DVD" in the comments section.

The deadline to order DVDs is Friday, May 27.

2016-17 AUCTION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are getting ready for the 30th annual St. Mark Gala & Auction to be held on February 18, 2017 at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. The Walton Stout Band (<http://www.thewaltonstoutband.com>), one of Dallas' premiere dance bands, will be performing at the event so get ready to party!!! Would you like to be part of the planning team? Would you like to help secure items for the live and silent auction? Would you like to help plan the program and assist at event night? Would you like to join in promoting the event throughout the school year? Maybe even be a co-chair? If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Eric Librea at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu. We will have a blast!

FIELD DAY REMINDERS

Field Day will take place on Thursday, June 2. This is a fun day for students in PK-7th grade where they participate in many different indoor and outdoor games and activities organized by the P.E. Department and the Field Day

child? St. Mark has limited availability at various grade levels. For more information or to schedule a school tour, please call the school office at (972) 578-0610, or visit the school website at www.stmcs.net.

St. Mark Info. Cards: We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general school information. 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 to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

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

Plan to eat at Raising Cane's on June 3 to celebrate the last day of school! Visit anytime on Friday, June 3 between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage will be donated to the St. Mark Athletic

Committee. Examples include an egg relay race, tug-of-war, obstacle course, water balloon toss, etc.

A few reminders:

-A pizza lunch is provided to all students by the school, so there is no need to send a lunch with students on Field Day unless your child prefers not to eat pizza.

-Students should wear modest shorts, their Field Day t-shirt, and athletic shoes.

-Please send a towel to school.

-We encourage you to apply sunscreen to your child before school, and we encourage your child to wear a hat.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Thursday, June 2: Field Day

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Open Committee Chair Positions for 2016-17:

- Membership Coordinator
- Hospitality
- Scrip Gift Cards
- Early Childhood Room Parent Coordinator

For more information on these positions, [click here](#). Please contact Ashley Ternan at ashleyternan@gmail.com with additional questions.

Department. Treat your family, and earn money for our school!

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY



Order your St.

Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. **Simply [click here](#) to place your order.**

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE ...

If your student is currently keeping a medication in the nurse's office (including EpiPens, inhalers, prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school. We do not store medication from year to year, so

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.

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 collecting Box Tops over the summer!

JOIN CUB SCOUTS

Is your son soon to be in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade? Is he interested in Cub Scouts?

Join Pack 285 on Thursday, May 19th at 6:30pm in the Cafetorium.

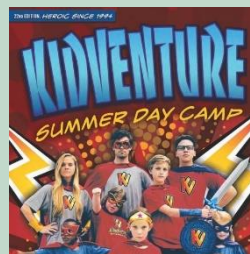
Join the last meeting of the school year. See how scouts move up in rank. Kids can stay for fun and games. Parents can stay for information about the Pack and 2016 summer camp.

Questions? Ask Cubmaster John Petroff petroffhome@verizon.net

The poster features a cartoon illustration of a Cub Scout in a blue uniform and yellow sash, holding a blue flag with a yellow triangle. The background is dark blue with yellow and white text.

anything that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of.

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.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at <http://kidventure.com/register>. Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

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



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Golf Team Registration Now Open: [Click here](#) for more information about the 16th Annual

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

20th Anniversary of Father Cliff's

Ordination: On Wednesday, a special All School Mass was held in honor of the 20th anniversary of Father Cliff's ordination. Our 5th grade students presented the Mass, and a special "We love you, Father Cliff" poster was hung on the choir loft by our school community. The Mass was attended by many school parents and parishioners. Holy Trinity Seminarian **Parker Thompson '11** was also in attendance, and assisted Father Cliff. During his homily, Father Cliff expressed his happiness that he was able to celebrate this anniversary with "some of his favorite people." He talked about how special his ordination day was, and recognized the significance of the fact that he is celebrating 20 years in the priesthood at the same time our community is supporting Parker at the beginning his journey. A special thank you to the Home & School Association for the lovely parent reception afterwards.



4th Grade Magnets: 4th grade studied magnetism this week and visited various stations in the classroom to work with them.

(photo removed)

DPL Golf Classic Student Tournament on June 6, 2016. The registration deadline is May 25, 2016. Contact Athletic Director, Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net for assistance with registration. We are in particular need of one 6th grade boy at this time to complete a 6th grade foursome.

Fall 2016 Sports Registration:

Registration for the following 2016 fall sports is now open. Registration fees for each sport are indicated. Please click the links below for more information about each sport.

[Football](#) (\$115) - Registration deadline: May 27, 2016

[Cheerleading](#) (\$45) - The deadline for Varsity Cheer has been extended until Friday, May 27, 2016.

[Cross Country](#) (\$70) - Please note that registration for 2016 Cross Country has been moved back to August. More details will be provided at that time.

2016-17 Volleyball Open Gyms & Team Evaluations:

Open Gyms will be held prior to Team Evaluations. Open Gym sessions are two hours long and include one hour of skills review and one hour of live game drills. Students may attend any or all of the Open Gym sessions, and pre-registration is NOT necessary.

Kindergarten Book Signing: Our Kindergarten classes published their own books. One class wrote about sea creatures and one wrote about super heroes. Students each contributed a story and an illustration and presented their published, hardcover books to their parents during a book signing last Friday.

(photo removed)

Kindergarten STEAM Project: On Wednesday, our Kindergarten students read a book called "Lucy's Picture" by Nicola Moon, which is about a girl who creates a picture for her grandfather who is blind. They were then challenged to create their own picture, and then add sensory elements so that a blind person could "feel" what their picture is about. Bubble wrap, silk flowers, pom poms, and other objects were all part of the fun. A STEAM project is similar to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), but adds "art" to the mix.

(photo removed)

Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts: On Thursday, The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts paid our elementary students a visit. Their organization travels the world taking high resolution photographs of New Testament manuscripts. School family, Steve and Maggie Carson and their son Samuel, have supported this organization for a number of years. Through their affiliation, the CSNTM arranged for two images to come to St. Mark last year, and they added two more this week. The first is a photograph of a cave illustration of St. Paul that was

Team Evaluation sessions last for two hours. They are conducted by outside staff and are closed to spectators.

PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATES/TIMES.

Junior Varsity (Rising 5th/6th Graders)

5th Grade Open Gym: May 21-22, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

5th Grade Team Evaluations: May 23, 6:00-8:00 PM, Bacot Gym

6th Grade Open Gym: May 22-23, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

6th Grade Team Evaluations: May 24, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

Upcoming Athletic Events:

Baseball: Come out and cheer on your LIONS team during the play-offs! Upcoming game:

JV vs. TBA, May 22, 1:45 PM @ Oran Good #2

Softball: Come out and cheer on your LIONS team during the play-offs! Upcoming game:

JV vs. St. Monica, May 21, 2:00 PM, John Paul II

discovered in Turkey. The second is a photo of a manuscript of the Gospel according to Matthew from a museum in Greece. These two new pieces will be displayed in a prominent place in the main school building, along with the two that were donated last year, so that everyone can learn from and enjoy them.



Father Cliff is the Student of the Week:

Father Cliff paid a visit to 2nd grade on Thursday as their "Student of the Week." He shared details about his life, and spoke about his experience in the theater, including a sneak peek of our upcoming St. Mark Theater Production performances. This fall will bring "The Emperor's New Clothes," and the costumes are amazing.

(photo removed)

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Track & Field Star: Shawn R. '12, current senior at Jesuit College Preparatory School, recently broke a 32-year old Jesuit record in the high jump to qualify for the UIL Region II Track and Field Championships in Waco.

Jesuit Engineering Society Success: Jack W. '12 and his fellow Engineering Society "fracking team" teammates



Upcoming Raising Cane's Fundraiser Benefitting the Athletics Department:

-June 3, 2016 (last day of school)

AT ST. MARK, WE SERVE.

Catholic Charities Food Round-Up: Congratulations to the St. Mark community for "rounding up" 1,752 pounds of food for the annual Catholic Charities of Dallas Food Round-Up! Students made donations for our April All-School Service Project. St. Mark placed 5th overall among the top 11 participating diocesan schools.

(photo removed)

Thank You for Your Help With Father Duffy's Funeral: A note to school families from the St. Mark parish staff:

Dear St. Mark School: We would like to thank all of you for your contribution to Father Duffy's Mass of Christian Burial Celebration and Reception. We are gratefully appreciative of how everyone came together to make this event a huge success.

With gratitude,
Delma Brennan, Marcela Solis,
Rosie Hernandez, George & Judy Clark

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

recently placed second at the Environmental Education Initiative Summit after successfully defending their research findings. [Click here](#) for more details.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer camps for kids of all ages. As we receive their brochures, we will make them available in the school lobby, or you can click below to learn more:

[Bishop Lynch High School](#)
[Cistercian Preparatory School](#)
[Jesuit College Preparatory School](#)
[John Paul II High School](#)
[Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

DRAMA KIDS SUMMER CAMP



Drama Kids International is now enrolling for summer camps.

Children participate in fun activities that help them think more creatively and learn new acting and confidence-building skills through plays, improvisations, silent scenes, mini-scripts, theater games and more. [Click here](#) for more details.

To register, visit dramakids.com/tx3 or call (972) 363-2369.

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