



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

January 13, 2017

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, Friday, January 13:

-8th grade received the Vocations Chalice at Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-PK-5th Grade Memory Book Sale (1/13-1/27 - details below)

Saturday, January 14:

-PSAT administered by Duke T.I.P. (participants were notified)

Monday, January 16:

-NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 17:

-3rd Quarter Begins

Wednesday, January 18:

-Teacher Luncheon, hosted by TK, K & 6th grade

-Report Cards Sent Home

Friday, January 20:

-7:30-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: Lion's Den Spirit Store



**A National School of
Excellence**

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connected!**



QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)

[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Safe Environment](#)

-7:50 AM, Cross by Narthex: Community Prayer Walk (details below)

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

2017-18 RE-REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

Re-registration for the 2017-18 school year will take place January 27-February 17. Please be on the lookout for a separate email from Business Manager, Annette Vela, which will contain complete details and instructions. Be sure that all financial obligations are current to prevent holds.



More honors for our fabulous teaching staff! 1st grade teacher, Ms. Eileen Bongiovanni, and 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Vicki Crider, both received Work of Heart Awards today! These educators exemplify excellence in teaching, consistently going above and beyond for their students in so many ways. Congratulations to them both. It means so much that our school parents think so highly of our staff to nominate them for these awards. 43 of our St. Mark staffers have received the Work of Heart since its inception in 2005 ... four during this school year alone.



You can nominate a faculty or staff member for a Work of Heart Award at anytime. Learn more at [The Catholic Foundation](http://TheCatholicFoundation.com) website.

MONTHLY ALL-SCHOOL SERVICE

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

OPEN HOUSES



Open Houses are coming up and we can use your help to get the word out in several ways:

*Know anyone interested in a cutting-edge education for their child that is rooted in our Catholic faith? Pass along our Open House dates:

***Tuesday, January 31,
9:00-10:00 AM**

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

Interested families may visit www.stmcs.net for pre-registration.

Open House and School Tour Referral Incentive:

Simply send someone you know to visit an upcoming Open House or take a school tour. Once they attend in person and indicate you as a referral, we'll send you a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store...it's that easy!

* Do you participate in a **neighborhood blog or website** such as www.nextdoor.com, or a neighborhood Facebook

At St. Mark, we pride ourselves on our commitment to community service among our students, families and staff. In years past, students were required to participate in St. Mark's monthly All-School Service Projects, and they received a Religion class grade for doing so. This year, in an effort to encourage an *intrinsic* desire to serve among our students, the decision was made to make the projects optional, and that grades would not be attached. We are asking for your help to reinforce the importance of community service with your children and to discuss the details of our service projects with them as they are sent home each month. To support that effort, here is what the school is doing: 1) All-School Service Projects are scheduled for the entire school year and details are sent home monthly by teachers, and are also included in the first *Weekly School Bulletin* of the month. 2) At the start of the school year, we held an assembly where representatives from each beneficiary organization gave a presentation to our students so the children would be able to "put a face with a name" each month. These details are reinforced by teachers as each new service project begins. 3) We focus on a new Virtue each month which is discussed in the classrooms. A "Virtue Tree" is also displayed in both school buildings and as students exhibit those virtues through service and kindness to others, they add leaves to the Virtue Trees (you've never seen such pride, from Preschool - 8th grade!). 4) Teachers devote special time every Friday morning before Mass (called "Our Time") where the school's virtue is discussed and students share how they are living that virtue and how they serve others.

If there is anything else we can do to assist in this effort, please don't hesitate to contact us. Serving others is a pillar of our Catholic faith, and we are honored to provide ongoing service opportunities so that giving back becomes second nature. Thank you for working with us to instill in our students the true spirit of service to others.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is coming up -- January 28-February 3. Information was sent to all families earlier this week and can also be found on the [school website](#). Be sure to read through all of the documents so you and your student are prepared for each day's activities. Important reminders:

- *Save the Date: January 31 - Family Day Lunch, Open House, & Student Art Show
- *Start on "Laps for Leukemia" service project pledges
- *Order the International Tasting Faire Passport



page? If so, please post our Open House dates (see above)! If there is room for more details, simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and she'll send them to you for posting.

*Pick up a **St. Mark yard sign** advertising our Open House and place it in your yard.

Interested? Let [Debbie Reed](#) know.

***And don't forget our Referral Thank You Program:** Refer a new family to St. Mark and you could receive a \$500 tuition credit. [Click here](#) for details.

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING TO SPREAD
THE WORD ABOUT OUR
WONDERFUL SCHOOL
COMMUNITY!**

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 29 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym.

Volunteer and service hour opportunities are available. [Click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius.

*Sign-up to represent St. Mark at an area parish mass, or help at an Open House -- just email [Debbie Reed](#).

We look forward to celebrating CSW with all of you!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2016-17 Preschool-5th Grade Memory Book: Memory books are now available for pre-order! To place your order online, simply visit www.yearbookforever.com and enter "St. Mark Catholic Lower School" when prompted. You may also order your memory book by filling out the order form that was sent home today. You may submit cash or check to Rene O'Connor in the front office. Checks should be made out to *St. Mark Catholic School* and on the memo line please indicate "memory book." The cost of the memory book is \$25. Quantities are limited. Orders will be accepted today through Friday, 1/27. Please contact [Beth Salava](#) or [Aisling Peden](#) with questions.

PK3-2nd Grade Readers/Paper Pullers Needed: The HSA would like to extend our appreciation to our Classroom Reader and Paper Puller volunteers for their gift of time. We still have available spots this year. If you are interested or have questions, please contact [Jill Dourty](#).

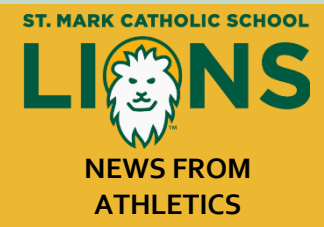
Library Volunteers Needed: Mrs. Paulson's 3rd Grade class is in need of library volunteers. If you're Safe Environment trained and can volunteer 30 minutes of your time once a month, please contact [Paola Colon](#).

Junior Achievement Help Needed: We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: Paulson, Flores, Ostermann, and Pennartz. 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](#).

Box Tops: Please continue to collect Box Tops! Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in to the school office.

And new this year... in addition to collecting Box Tops from product labels, you can earn bonus Box Tops via the [Box Tops app](#) available for both iPhone and Android devices. It's free and easy to use!

Used uniform donations will be accepted in the school office until January 27. Please note that, while we are no longer accepting green pant donations for the Used Uniform Sale, we are accepting them on behalf of Orphan Outreach. Donations will be sent to the Madeline School in Africa. See photos of our most recent green pant donation on [Facebook](#).



Basketball Season: [Click here](#) for game schedules. Come out and cheer on your LIONS! And don't forget to visit the Lion's Den Spirit Store during home games for all of your St. Mark gear!

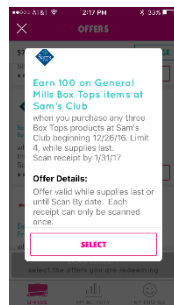
Swim Meet Rescheduled; Registration Reopened: This year's DPL Swim Meet has been rescheduled from the fall to sometime in February. [Registration](#) is now open for anyone else wishing to participate. The deadline is January 20. If you have already registered, no further action is necessary. More Swim Meet details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Sports Registrations: Save the date! Registration will open

Simply load the app, pick from the offers, and scan a copy of your paper receipt. These offers can be repeated. The school is listed as **st mark catholic school** when you create your log in (note spacing). Or you can search school ID: 184443.

In addition, this month, Sam's Club has a special promo via the app for 100 bonus Box Tops (\$10!) when you purchase 3 General Mills products. This offer can also be repeated.

Please consider adding the app to your phone and using it when you purchase groceries. This is free money for the school! If you have any questions, contact [Holly Lewis](#) or [Jennifer Pike](#).



Don't forget -- St. Mark earns money when you shop at Amazon through the link on our school website. **We've made it even easier for you by adding the Amazon "a" logo at the very top of the homepage, next to the social media links:**



Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery Shopping: Link your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries. Kroger cards must be relinked each year.

Safe Environment: A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobes](#) with questions.

30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

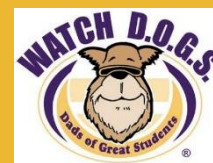
on January 16 for baseball, softball and track. The deadline to register for these sports will be February 28.

Download Game Photos: Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#). View and purchase photos from recent events.

Coach Safe Environment Training: All volunteer coaches for Baseball, Softball, and Track must submit their [Safe Environment](#) certification to [Marlene Ehring](#) as soon as possible.



Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic: This annual event is scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehring](#) if you are interested.



Calling All "Dads of Great Students": [Click here](#) to learn more about our Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer program for Dads only, and to reserve your spot during the month of February.

5 weeks and counting 'til the 30th Annual Gala and Auction!

Have you never attended a Gala & Auction? Or have you gone every year? This year's event will be unique and is not-to-be missed:



- We have new items up for auction such as a Lion Safari School Sleepover (grade level requirements), Skydiving with Teachers, and a Hand-Carved Blessed Nativity from the Holy Land.
- With the purchase of your ticket you will receive a "Swag Bag" with over \$50 worth of coupons and free items such as 7-11 coffee coupons, Raising Cane's kids meals, Kenny's Restaurant and Jumpstreet coupons, Patrón Spirits logoed items, and much more (while supplies last).
- Live band performance
- Commemorative stemless wine glasses for purchase (free to first-time event attendees)
- Complimentary cocktail hour before the event
- Discount room rates at the Marriott Town Center (while rooms are available). Make it an overnight date night!

Have you not purchased your tickets? There is still time, but space is running out quickly. To sweeten the deal even more, we have a new 2017 ticket purchase incentive: Anyone who purchases tickets between January 1st and January 20th (Noon Central Time) will be placed in a raffle for a free night stay at the Marriott Legacy Town Center to be used the night of the event or prior to the end of 2017. If you have previously purchased a ticket and would like to be entered into this drawing, you may purchase additional tickets for friends or faculty members.

Your kiddos will get in on the ticket purchase incentives too:

- Students whose parents attend and are from the **class** with the best parent turnout will get an ice cream party at Sweet Firefly!
- Students whose parents attend and are from the **grade level** with the best parent turnout will get an afternoon of bowling, bounce house fun, etc.

Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#). If you have questions, ideas, or would like to help out, please reach out to [Eric Librea](#). If you feel like attending but don't have a group or table to join, please reach out to [Lori Gonzalez](#) and she will make sure you are seated with the fun crowd!

We are still accepting donations. How to Donate:

Sign-ups are due January 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be Safe Environment trained to volunteer.



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

All Are Welcome! Join Holy Trinity Seminary for upcoming Public Masses on Sunday, January 22 and January 29 at 9:15 AM at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

Courtney Bell wins Diocesan Spelling Bee:



Student Earns Eagle Scout Rank:

- Contribute items or money to your child's class Auction Basket: Collection bins are in each classroom, and in the library for Middle School. If you have any questions about class Auction Baskets, please reach out to [Michelle Martin](#). Deadline is 2/3.
- Do you own a business that would like a 2017 tax deduction? Contact [Ann Rossigno](#) for more information on sponsorship packages. Deadline is 2/15.
- Do you work for a business that would like to donate a product, service, or money? Contact [Chandi Owen](#) for more information. Deadline is 2/15.
- Purchase tickets for faculty and staff. It is a great way to show appreciation for the amazing job they do educating our children. Deadline is 2/15.

Congratulations to Eric and Beth Salava, and Michael and Grace Duffy who won the December ticket purchase incentive prizes!

ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

January's Prayer Intention for our School: For the finances of our church and school

This Week's Prayer: Please pray for our Confirmation candidates: *Father, guide these candidates as they prepare for Confirmation. Strengthen them in their baptismal promises, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Upcoming Events:

*Our next Community Prayer Walk will be held on Friday, January 20. We will meet by the cross in front of the Narthex at 7:50 AM. Please join us in praying the rosary as we walk the perimeter of the school and church. We will meditate on the joyful mysteries while praying for the teachers, students, administration, clergy, school, etc.

*Join us every Monday at 2:30 PM in the Church Cry Room to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our school and country.



Robotics Video:



Don't Miss Your Child's Art at the CSW Art Show!



Preschool Winter Olympics:



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