



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**March 3, 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, March 3:

-7th grade received the Vocations Chalice at Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

#### Monday, March 6:

-St. Mark Spirit Day (refer to page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines)

-8:00 AM, Room 142: Community Prayer Team Meeting

#### Tuesday, March 7:

-8:00 AM, Cafetorium: Confirmation/Graduation Parent Meeting for 8th grade parents

#### Thursday, March 9:



Raising Cane's Fundraiser. Place your order, mention St. Mark, and a percentage of proceeds benefits the Athletics Dept.

#### Friday, March 10:



A National School of  
Excellence

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connected!



### QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)  
[Admissions](#)  
[Lunch Menus](#)  
[Safe Environment](#)

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 7th grade. All are welcome.

-12:00 PM Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 6:00 PM. Please send a lunch with all ASP students.

**Sunday, March 12:**

-Daylight Savings Time Begins. Set clocks one hour ahead.

**Monday, March 13-Friday, March 17:**

-Spring Break: No School for Students

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At St. Mark, our classroom activities are structured in a way that strengthens our students' problem-solving, discussion, creative, public speaking, and research abilities, among many other important life skills. While these skills are part of numerous lessons throughout each student's day, I'd like to use this month's column to highlight a few specific examples of each.

**Problem-Solving:** Even as early as Preschool, students are taught how to work through problems. Something as simple as teaching different ways of putting on a jacket shows them that they can attack issues from different angles. S.T.E.M. projects at all grade levels challenge students to work in groups and give input on how to solve a problem in a way that works. Enrichment activities such as the Visioneering engineering challenge at SMU (which many of our middle school students participate in) allows students to flex their problem-solving skills.

**Discussions:** Class discussion time is key, and is incorporated at every grade level. In Preschool, students are taught that everyone has something great to say, and that we do not laugh at friends or classmates when they speak. At the elementary level, many topics are discussed as a class and students are asked for their input. Raising hands and taking turns are emphasized. Middle school participates in "Literature Circle" discussions and does an activity called "Grab Bag" which involves student groups choosing questions out of a bag that pertain to a story or novel. They are then challenged to discuss the topics and present their findings to the class. "Our Time" takes place each Friday before Mass. Students are asked to take part in a classroom discussion about how they live out our monthly virtues.

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

### FAITH IN ACTION



**March Virtue - Respect:**

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. [Click here](#) for the 2016-17 virtues.



**March All-School Service Project:**

Annual Right to Life Baby Shower. This is a joint effort between the school and the Knights of Columbus Council 6065.

**Catholic School Teaching:**

Life and dignity of the human person

**Who Benefits?**

White Rose and Birth Choice Pregnancy Centers

**Details:**

**Preschool & Elementary:** PK-5th grade students will donate needed baby items. [Click here](#) for more information about the collection, and the needs list. If necessary, donations may be brought to the school between March 20-29 however, it is preferred that they be dropped off to volunteers who will be present at all morning carpool lines on March 29.

**Creativity:** From Art and Music classes, to classroom projects utilizing various presentation tools on the iPads, students are continually challenged to express their own creativity throughout their lessons. Illustrations must frequently accompany writing projects. Students create presentations using green screens and artistic backgrounds which are then shown on apps such as SeeSaw. Other apps like Thinglink also incorporate creativity. At the elementary and middle school levels, students are frequently given a choice of ways to execute a given project. After school Enrichment Clubs provide a wealth of creative outlets. 6th grade was recently challenged to create a mythical monster as part of a unit on Greece and Greek mythology.

**Speaking:** All students are encouraged to speak in front of the class. Individual and group presentations are frequent. Kindergarten students present a "Show and Tell" each week. All classes engage in a variety of presentations such as saint reports, the 3rd grade "Pushing Up the Sky" play, the annual 4th grade play, and presenting the readings at weekly All School Masses. Apps such as SeeSaw allow parents to see their children participating in classroom speaking roles. S.T.E.M. projects encourage speaking when students are asked to present findings during classroom and S.T.E.M. Day challenges.

**Researching:** All students are taught the art of research. Teachers and the school Librarian work with students on basic research skills including how to find information online and in books. Even our youngest students learn these skills. At times, middle school students will help Kindergarteners find basic information for their writing projects. Elementary students use various websites to find information for reports. Middle school enrichment packets challenge students to find answers to all sorts of questions.

Stop by the "Spotlight" display in the front lobby to see these classroom activities in action, and feel free to contact me directly with any questions or feedback you may have.

*Patricia Opon*

Patricia Opon  
Principal  
[patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net)

**ALL SCHOOL FAMILIES MUST UPDATE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE PARISH**

**Middle School:** Students will donate loose change during their lunch periods between March 20-31. Change should be deposited into the container at the front of the cafeteria labeled with the student's grade level (6th, 7th, 8th). The containers are quite large, so it will take the entire grade to fill them.

The grade that fills their container first wins a free dress day on April 6 and ice cream during lunch. If the other grades fill their containers, they will also get ice cream at lunch on that day. The money collected will be used to purchase car seats and/or cribs for the centers.

**Due Dates:**

Preschool/Elementary School:  
March 29

Middle School: March 31



**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 April. Sign-ups are due March 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

St. Mark Catholic Church is updating the parish database and they need each member to confirm their family contact information.

**\*\*THIS MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE PARISHIONER DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL TUITION, SO PLEASE BE SURE YOUR FAMILY'S INFORMATION IS CURRENT.\*\***

Click the following link to submit your update: <https://stmarkplano.org/2017-parish-update-form>. It only takes a minute.

### LEAVING EARLY OR RETURNING LATE FROM SPRING BREAK?

If your Spring Break plans include departing early or returning late, please be sure to email [Mrs. O'Connor](mailto:Mrs.O'Connor) to let her know.

### 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION/GRADUATION MEETING

There will be a mandatory Confirmation/Graduation parent meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 8:00 AM in the Cafetorium. If you are an 8th grade parent, please plan to attend. Important details will be shared about these two milestones in your student's life. Questions? Contact [Victoria James](mailto:Victoria James).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN YOUTH HOUSE UPDATE

The Middle School Open Youth House, hosted by the NET Team, will NOT meet today due to the Dallas Catholic Youth Conference.



As a reminder, middle school students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to participate in the St. Mark Middle School Open Youth House on Friday afternoons. Students come together to enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship with their peers. Email [Mrs. Opon](mailto:Mrs.Opon) directly if your middle school student would like to participate.

### LAPS FOR LEUKEMIA UPDATE

Congratulations to our community! This year, we hit an all-time St. Mark record, raising \$18,132.83 during the February "Laps for Leukemia" all-school service project. Our previous record of \$18,120.39 was set in 2011. We should all be so proud of this accomplishment that directly helps to fight blood cancers.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

#### Play Like a Champion

**Today Newsletter:** From time to time, we'll share some interesting articles from the *Play Like A Champion Today* newsletter. In conjunction with The University of Notre Dame, the [Play Like A Champion](#) organization focuses on ways to build character through sports. [Click here](#) for articles discussing compassion in youth sports.



#### Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic - Registration Now Available:

This annual event, hosted by the Class of 2002, is scheduled for May 19, 2017. [Click here](#) for information, registration, and sponsorship opportunities. Please email [Marlene Ehrling](mailto:Marlene Ehrling) for more information.

#### 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

## YOU'RE INVITED: 2018 AUCTION & GALA COMMITTEE MEETING

**Where:** Urban Rio (Upstairs Bar)

**When:** March 24, 6:00 PM



**What is it?** Do you have ANY interest in helping with the 2018 Gala & Auction? This meeting will allow you to ask questions about the process. **No commitment** is required. We want to see more parents involved with the planning and event. It is no secret that the Gala & Auction takes time and energy, but like all tasks, when broken down into smaller groups, they are easily achievable. Below is a list of a few key positions. We need 1-3 volunteers for each one. The committee usually meets once a month from September-January, and then more frequently as the event nears. Rebecca Battles is inviting any parent who is interested to come have a cocktail and some chips and salsa (it is Lent after all....no meat means extra carbs!).

**Auction Website Set-up and Upkeep:** This person will help load pictures, descriptions of items, ticket sales, etc.

### **Solicitations - sounds scary, but it isn't:**

\*Large Corporation Solicitations - These people will be delivering letters and tax exempt forms to local businesses, following up and retrieving donations.

\*Alumni - These people will handle contact with our generous alumni and alumni families to seek repeat or first time donations. This involves phone calls and possibly mailings.

\*In-Kind Solicitations - These people will handle cash donations from families, businesses, etc.

### **Event Night Coordination:**

\*Event Night Layout and Decorations - The bulk of work will fall in the February-April 2018 timeframe.

\*Planning dinner tables, silent auction and live auction decorations

\*Creating signage for the event night

For more information, contact [Rebecca Battles](#).

[Marlene Ehring](#) as soon as possible.

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

8th grade families should continue to check the St. Mark website under the "Admissions/Financial Aid" tab for high school scholarship opportunities. Most recently, the 2017 application for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Josephine Ames Memorial Scholarship has been added. [Click here](#) for more.

## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



Congratulations to 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Erin McCormick, who received the Work of Heart Award at today's All School Mass. Her kind demeanor and ability to engage her students is evident in all that she does. She loves to teach, and her students love her! Awarded by The Catholic Foundation, the Work of Heart Award honors those who go above and beyond for Catholic education. Incredibly, this is the 7th time this school year that a St. Mark staffer has received this award. To nominate a faculty or staff member, [click here](#).



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Field Day Volunteers:** This fun, activity-filled day for students will be held on Wednesday, May 31. The Home & School Association, HSA member volunteers, and the P.E. coaches are planning many fun outdoor games for the students. Only HSA members may volunteer on Field Day. If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure your [Safe Environment](#) training is current for the 2016-17 school year. Not sure if you joined HSA? Contact [Ashley Ternan](#) to confirm your membership. More information on Field Day volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.

**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.

Don't forget to add the Box Tops app available for both iPhone and Android devices. It's free and easy to use! 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, 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. If you have any questions, contact [Holly Lewis](#) or [Jennifer Pike](#).

You can help the school win 5,000 Bonus Box tops by going to [www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes](http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes) daily. It expires on 3/12/17.



**Amazon School Rewards Program:** 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



**Finding God in Silence:** Mrs. Denvir, Ms. Eisele, Mrs. Rivera and other members of our St. Mark community recently participated in a silent retreat of spiritual exercises in Grand Prairie through [DFW Regnum Christi](#). Mrs. Denvir shares her meaningful experience of "Finding God in Silence" which was published on Regnum Christi's online blog, and invites others to join her at the next retreat taking place October 19-22. [Click here](#) for more.



### SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

#### Prayers for the Bishop:



**Ash Wednesday:**

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.

## ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

**February's prayer intention for our school:** For other schools in the diocese, the high school our children will attend, as well as those they may never enter.



**Please join our students in praying our school prayer:** *Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.*

### Upcoming Events:

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

\*The next Community Prayer Team meeting will take place on March 6 at 8:00 AM in Room 142.

## KEEP UP THOSE REFERRALS

**Next Open House:** Early Childhood Education (PK-K): Wednesday, April 26, 5:30-7:30 PM, ECE Building

**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](http://www.nextdoor.com), or a neighborhood Facebook page? If so, please post our Open House date (see above). If there is room for more details, simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and she'll send them to you for posting.

**\*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!**



**Girl Scout Bronze Award:**



**Read Across America:**



**New iPad Carts:**



**8th Grade Space Shuttles:**



**Enrichment Clubs Begin:**



**ECE Mardi Gras Parade:**

## JESUIT SUMMER THEATER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Jesuit College Preparatory School is offering an intensive 3-week Summer Theater program for 6th-8th grade students. [Click here](#) for details, or contact [Chris Patterson](#) (St. Mark Class of 2004).

## JESUIT/JAB BASKETBALL: SPRING BREAK SKILLS CAMP & UPCOMING SPRING SEASON

Jesuit College Preparatory School is hosting the annual JAB Spring Break Basketball Skills Camp for boys and girls in grades 1-8 from March 13-15. Fundamentals, competitions and games are part of the fun. [Click here](#) for details.

In addition, the spring season for JAB will be kicking-off the week of March 20 including the 3v3 Academy, team practices, individual skill development workouts, and league games. For further information, contact [Jonathan Alexander](#).

## CISTERCIAN CHEER TRYOUTS

Cistercian Cheerleading is open to Ursuline students and girls with a Cistercian relative. Join them for a pre-tryout meeting on April 11 at 5:30 PM. Tryout clinics take place April 18-20 from 4:30-7:00 PM, and tryouts take place April 21 at 4:30 PM. To register, visit [www.hawkscheerdallas.com](http://www.hawkscheerdallas.com).

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

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3rd Grade Volleyball:



## PRO-LIFE BINGO KNIGHT

**BINGO** The St. Mark Knights of Columbus Council 6065 is hosting their annual Pro-Life Bingo Knight on Saturday, March 18. Social hour and registration begin at 6:30 PM with the first game starting at 7:30 PM. Prizes will be awarded including the grand prize -- a \$600 gift card. \$25 pre-registration, or \$30 at the door. Contact [Fred Kuglin](#) to become a table sponsor or to make a donation. [Click here](#) for details.

St. Mark Catholic School, 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075

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