



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 5, 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, May 5:

-2nd grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-12:00 PM Early Dismissal; Staff Development; After School Program is available until 6:00 PM.



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Raising Cane's Fundraiser. Mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage of proceeds benefits the St. Mark Athletics Dept.

-4:30-8:00 PM: 2nd Annual STEM Fair (details below)

Tuesday, May 9:

-2:45 PM, Cafetorium: Band Concert

Thursday, May 11:

-Free Dress Day: Students may pay \$2.00 and wear "free dress" to school. See page 25 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines. Proceeds benefit Middle School Yearbook.



A National School of Excellence

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-6:15 PM, Cafetorium: Preschool Performance: "A Fairy Tale Evening"; Student performance at 9:00 AM

Friday, May 12:

-8:30 AM, Church: **May Crowning All School Mass** planned by the 2nd grade; Student "Work of Heart" Recognition Assembly. All are welcome. Students may wear "Sunday best" clothes to school and should bring one flower to present to our Mother Mary (refer to page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for May Crowning dress guidelines).



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Raising Cane's Fundraiser. Mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage of proceeds benefits the St. Mark Athletics Dept.

Saturday, May 13:

-10:00 AM, Church: 2nd Grade First Communion; Children's Choir Sings at Mass

Monday, May 15-Thursday, May 18:

-8th Grade Final Exams

-Popcorn Sale Benefitting Middle School Yearbook

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

In this, our last full month of school, I'd like to wrap up my "Principal's Messages" by highlighting a topic that is near and dear to all of our hearts, and that is **community service**. As Catholics, we are all called to use our God-given talents to serve, and incorporating this notion is integral to a Catholic education.



Service must be woven into the fabric of our school so that students learn how to help others, and to find true purpose and joy in doing so. All-School Service Projects have been a tradition at St. Mark since its inception. Students engage in activities benefitting a wide range of organizations and causes from the military, pro-life groups, and food pantries, to hospitals, nursing homes, and our own parish. Last year, we decided to remove the requirement that all students participate in these projects for a homework grade. Rather, we ask that students serve out of the goodness of their hearts with the goal of making service intrinsic within each and every one of them. We do it as part of our obligation to the community around us, but let's face it...we don't mind hearing from our beneficiaries about how well our students do what they do. The annual Laps for Leukemia fundraiser is a perfect example. What other small,

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

FAITH IN ACTION



May Virtue -

Responsibility: 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.



May All-School Service Project: St. Mark Community Clean-up

Each grade level will participate in caring for our school, parish, and campus.

Catholic School Teaching:
Care for God's creation

Who Benefits?
St. Mark Community

Due Date:
Students will perform service during the school day on May 19 from 2:00-3:15 PM.



Minutes from the March 30, 2017 SAC meeting are available by [clicking here](#).

private school can boast raising the most money of any combined (PK, elementary, middle) school in the entire State of Texas for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and continuing to break records year over year? LLS heaps praise on St. Mark every year, but two weeks ago, they took it a step further and treated the entire school to an Olive Garden lunch in gratitude for our herculean efforts. We have to admit, it's nice to be recognized!

Friday morning before Mass brings that special time that we call "Our Time." Students are asked to share how they've lived out our monthly virtue during the week. Many times we learn that it has been done in service to others. New this year, we've also added an 8th grade "Day of Service." This year, the class visited the North Texas Food Bank. Speaking of middle school, they have their own community service requirements, over and above the All-School Service Projects. 7th and 8th grade students must complete 15 additional hours of service during the year: 5 hours during the summer, fall and spring semesters. It's a wonderful way to introduce them to a wider array of opportunities within the community, and to prepare them for the many hours of service that will be required of them at our Catholic high schools. The staff does their part as well. One of our In-Service Days is truly spent "in service" to others. We branch out among a few different charitable organizations, cleaning shelves at the St. Mark Food Pantry, stocking merchandise at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, and helping out at Hope's Door.

We are all so blessed to be a part of such a warm, loving, and caring community. It's only right that we each give back to that community in our own ways, and we hope you agree that St. Mark Catholic School does all we can to encourage a true spirit of service within our precious students. Please check out the "Spotlight Display" in the school lobby to see our community service efforts in action.

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

STAFF NEWS

As the school year comes to an end, there is always news to share and goodbyes to say...

*Great news! Due to increasing demand, we will be opening a third Kindergarten class next school year and we are thrilled that our beloved Mrs. Erin McCormick will be teaching it! Mrs. McCormick will make the move from 1st grade back to

2017-18 LIMITED OPENINGS

There are limited openings in select grade levels for the 2017-18 school year. Take advantage of our referral opportunities:

***School Tour Referral Incentive:** Simply send someone you know to 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!

***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!



Athletics Information for Incoming 5th Grade Families: If your incoming 5th grader is interested in playing on a school sports team during the 2017-18 school year, please [click here](#) to view a short Powerpoint presentation about the St. Mark Athletics program.

Kindergarten where she is perfectly at home, having spent years with that program.

*Ms. Escobar, PK4 - Ms. Escobar will be moving to public school to finish up her teacher alternative certification program. Once done, she does plan on returning, and of course, we would welcome her back with open arms.

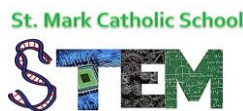
*Mrs. Flores, 4th grade - Mrs. Flores has decided to return to working part-time. She has enjoyed her time with us, but feels part-time is a better fit for her family at this time.

*Mrs. Smith, 6th grade - Mrs. Smith has made the brave decision to leave a job she loves with people she loves, to pursue a career in Counseling. After all, she got her Masters Degree in Counseling for a reason.

*Mrs. Rodriguez, 7th/8th grade Language Arts - Mrs. Rodriguez is finally going to put away some of the many balls she juggles. She is going to be a stay-at-home mom and homeschool her younger kids. Christina Maws will be taking over her class. She is coming to us from New Mexico this summer with 19 years of teaching experience across a variety of grade levels, and was recommended by one of our alumni families. She is bubbly, warm and wonderful. Her accolades and glowing references are too numerous to mention, but among them is receiving the "Who's Who Among American Teachers" award three years in a row. I know you'll join me in celebrating the good news, and wishing our departing staff members well in their new futures. We will miss them, but I am very proud of each one of them for looking inwards and making decisions that will enhance their lives and the lives of their families.

DON'T MISS THE 2ND ANNUAL S.T.E.M. FAIR!

The 2nd Annual St. Mark Catholic School S.T.E.M. Fair takes place **today**, Friday, May 5 from 4:30-8:00 PM. Don't miss this incredibly popular event that has grown to include 70+ corporations, non-profits, universities, Catholic high schools and more, that come together to present hands-on, interactive booths to our students and their families highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. [Click here](#) for the list of sponsors. Bring the entire family and enjoy drones, robots, rockets, storm troopers, food trucks, goody bags, giveaways, scholarships, and more!



Fall 2017-18 Sports Registrations Now Open (click for details):

[JV & Varsity Football:](#)

Deadline = June 1

[JV & Varsity Cheerleading:](#)

Deadline = June 1

[JV & Varsity Volleyball:](#)

Deadline = June 1

[JV & Varsity Cross Country:](#)

Deadline = August 15

Download Game Photos:

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

JPII FOOTBALL

John Paul II High School invites you to their upcoming football activities:

May 12, 6:30 PM: Spring Football Game

May 12, 5:00 PM: Spring Powder Puff Game

Enjoy football, family and food! Follow them on Twitter @jpiihs_football.

LION PRIDE!

Congratulations to our students who qualified for the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) State competition held last weekend at TCU: **Aenghus D., Olivia G., Anish K., Angela M., Vivian N., Emilio R., Paul S.,**

2017 MONSIGNOR SMYTH GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for the 23rd Annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic, hosted by the Athletics Department and the St. Mark Class of 2002.

Enjoy an afternoon of golf and fellowship, followed by dinner, gift bags, door prizes, and a raffle. \$100 per golfer.



[Click here](#) for information, registration, and sponsorship opportunities. All proceeds benefit the St. Mark Catholic School Athletics program.

Special thanks to our tournament sponsors and donors:



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Questions? Please email [Marlene Ehring](mailto:Marlene.Ehring) for more information.

OUTSTANDING FEES

Parents: Please be aware that all student debts (such as library, cafeteria, school fees, textbook damage/replacement, late pick-up fee, ASP fee, etc.) need to be paid in full before a student may participate in our upcoming end-of-year events such as Field Day, Graduation, etc.

1ST ANNUAL ST. MARK MOTHER & SON DANCE

Moms and Sons! Join Troop 6585 for the 1st annual St. Mark Mother & Son Dance on Friday, May 12 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Cafetorium. This year's 80's theme is totally awesome! Enjoy pizza, photos, door prizes, and dancing. Costumes are encouraged but not required. The cost is \$30 per mother/son couple and \$10 for each



Ethan S., Chloe S., Ann T.,
Theresa T., Donte T.,
Paige V., and Declan W.

The following students
placed in their events at
State:

Olivia G. - 1st Place,
Storytelling - 1st grade

Theresa T. - 1st Place,
Number Sense, 6th grade

Paul S. - 4th Place, Music
Memory, 5th/6th grades

Vivian N. - 5th Place, On-
Site Drawing, 8th grade

Chloe S. - 7th Place,
Dictionary Skills, 4th/5th
grades

Ethan S. - 8th Place,
Mathematics, 2nd/3rd
grade



GO LIONS!!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

**Mrs. Mercado - Diocesan
Teacher of the Year:**

additional child. RSVPs and payments are due May 9. [Click here](#) for the registration form.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HSA Meeting: The 4th General HSA Meeting will be held on May 17 at 6:30 PM in the Cafeteria (**note date change**). Executive Board officers for the 2017-18 school year will be announced and the changes to the by-laws will be voted on.

Box Tops: You can still submit Box Tops until May 22. Please continue to use the Box Tops app for iPhone and Android. It's free and easy to use! [Click here](#) for instructions. **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](#).



Amazon School Rewards Program: Weddings? Graduations? Be sure to shop at Amazon for all of your gift (and everyday) needs! St. Mark earns money when you shop through the link at the top of our [homepage](#).

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.

ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

May's prayer intention for our school: For our First Communion Candidates.

A prayer for our First Communion Candidates: Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist You left us the outstanding manifestation of your limitless love for us. Thank You for giving these children the opportunity to experience this love in receiving the Sacrament for the first time. May your Eucharist presence keep them ever free from sin, fortified in faith, pervaded by love for God and neighbor, and fruitful in virtue, that they may continue



Spring Musical:



2017-18 StuCo Officers:



PSIA State Competition:



Robotics in *The Texas Catholic*:



Ronald McDonald Dessert Day:



8th Grade Auction Party:



to receive You throughout life and attain final union with You at death. 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.

BE SURE YOUR PARISH DATABASE INFO. IS CURRENT

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.

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Duncan Family-Choctaw Nation:



PK-3 "Zebra" Writing:



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