



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

February 16, 2018

### Prayer for the 2017-18 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 treat Jesus Christ, with all our heart, mind and soul.

## REMINDERS

### TODAY, Friday, February 16:

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

-Deadline for 2018-19 current family re-enrollment

-4:45-7:00 PM, Cafetorium: Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry

### Monday, February 19:

-NO SCHOOL: President's Day

### Wednesday, February 21:

-8:00 AM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Confirmation/Graduation Parent Meeting

-Progress Reports (grades 1-8)

### Thursday, February 22:

-7:30 AM: School Advisory Council Meeting



A National School of Excellence

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

"Like" and "share" on your social media and help us spread the word about our wonderful school!



10:00 AM-10:45 PM, Chipotle @ 1009 N. Central Expressway, Plano: Chipotle/LLS Fundraiser (details below).

**Friday, February 23:**

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

-Deadline for 2018-19 new student applications

-Box Tops Due (details below)

**Monday, February 26:**

-Spring Enrichment Clubs Begin



Congratulations to 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Sarah Samples, who was presented with the "Work of Heart Award" at today's All School Mass! Mrs. Samples is the 46th St. Mark faculty/staff member to receive this special award since its inception in 2005. She is a master at bringing out the best in all of her students, and is beloved by them, as well as parents and peers. We are so proud of her! Presented by The Catholic Foundation, the Work of Heart Award honors those in the community who go "above and beyond" for Catholic education. If you would like to nominate someone special for a "Work of Heart," simply [click here](#).



**WE ARE FAMILY**

Continuing in the spirit of St. Valentine's Day, we are introducing a new way to "spread the love" around St. Mark with a new column entitled, "We Are Family." The inspiration comes from Charles and Lindsay H., parents to Alexandria (5th) and Adam (2nd), who reached out to us with a special story about how another family at St. Mark has touched their lives. Their story certainly touched our hearts, and we hope it inspires you to share an uplifting story or a simple "thank you"



**QUICK LINKS**

- [Calendar](#)
- [Lifetime Lions Alumni Admissions](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Safe Environment](#)
- [Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)
- [Work of Heart Nomination](#)

**SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE**

We regret to announce that after much due diligence, St. Mark will not be offering a summer daycare program in 2018. We are truly sorry for any inconvenience this may cause some of our families. The good news is that we are already in the planning stage for the summer of 2019 and feel very confident we will be back on track to offer this option to our families in the future.



The Winter 2018 Lifetime Lions Alumni Newsletter is out! [Click here](#) to see what our alumni have been up to.

**THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF**

Thank you to the Preschool and 5th grade families for hosting the "Fat Tuesday" Teacher Luncheon on Tuesday. BBQ and all the fixins' were on the menu, topped off, of course, by king cake for dessert (from

to someone who has supported you and your family. After all, "family" is what St. Mark is all about.

### The H. Family's Story

*Moving to McKinney from the Los Angeles area was no easy task, with three children ranging from 18 months to 8 years old at the time, and leaving behind all our family and friends and the support system we had. However, after moving into our home where we decided to raise our children and choosing St. Mark as the school they would attend, we were soon greeted by the C. Family (Lynn, Bill, Jenny, Jesse, Matt and Sammy)! A few weeks after school had started they came to our home, knocked on the door and introduced themselves as the other St. Mark family in the neighborhood. After their introduction, a friendship began. My wife and I said to one another, "What are the odds of choosing a home in McKinney in the same neighborhood as another St. Mark family?" For us, it was a sign that we made a good decision and that we were meant to be here. Since that day in 2011, we have grown into a big St. Mark family and have created several memories with several families. Most recently, my wife, Lindsay, has taken a new job based in Washington, D.C., and it's because of our relationships with these families and friends at St. Mark that we have decided to make sacrifices to keep our children here at their school as long as we can. In closing, I'd say we moved here because we were looking for a home to raise our children and for a school where they could share teachers and stories, make friends and memories. That's what St. Mark has become for us: not just a school but a place we will look back on years from now.*

### **BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ANNUAL SURVEY**

Parents: Please be on the lookout for an electronic survey from the Catholic Diocese of Dallas. **This is the only survey we will do this year and it will take the place of our local school survey that we normally conduct at the end of the year.**

The Diocese of Dallas has partnered with the Oklahoma Center for Education Policy to produce annual capacity reports for schools. Capacity reports provide formative information that is useful for continuous school improvement. Surveys will be administered to principals, teachers, school staff, parents, and students. Participation is voluntary and responses are anonymous. No one from the school will know who participated or see individual responses.

**Parents will receive an electronic survey by email. English and Spanish versions are available. The survey window is**

Gambino's Bakery/New Orleans, no less!). What a great way to celebrate Mardi Gras!



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



The Lion's Den Spirit Store is open every Friday morning that school is in session from 7:30-8:15 AM in the Cafeteria hallway. Can't make it in person? Shop online at [www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear](http://www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear). Once an order has been submitted it will be bundled and ready for pick up on Friday. Note: Not all items available are offered online.

**Mark your calendar:**

**Basketball Season:** [Click here](#) for game schedules and plan to come out and cheer on your LIONS teams. Don't forget to visit the Lion's Den Spirit Store during all home games!

**Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic:**



February 20-March 6, 2018. If you do not receive a survey, please let us know.

### LLS/CHIPOTLE DAY ON 2/22/18

Help St. Mark Catholic School continue our streak as one of the top fundraising schools in North Texas for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!



Eat at Chipotle at 1009 North Central Expressway (by the school) on Thursday, February 22 between 10:00 AM and 10:45 PM, mention St. Mark/LLS, and a percentage of the proceeds will go towards our "Laps for Leukemia" fundraising goal.

Please note that the flyer you will receive at home indicates that you can eat at any Chipotle location and LLS will benefit. This is true, but **the only way to add to St. Mark's fundraising total is to visit the location by the school.** Thank you for your support!

### HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

2018-19 admission season is here! Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child? Here are some ways you can help us spread the word about St. Mark:



**1. REFERRALS:** Encourage prospective families to register for an upcoming **Open House**, our new **Come and Play Days**, or a **private tour** at [www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours](http://www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours). If they attend, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate for the Lion's Den Spirit Store, and if they enroll, you could receive a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)

#### **2018 Open Houses:**

Tuesday, March 27, 8:00-9:00 AM, School Library  
Tuesday, April 24, 5:30-7:00 PM, Early Childhood Bldg. (for PK/K families)

#### **2018 Come and Play Days:**

Families with preschool/kindergarten children are encouraged to play on our playground, enjoy a snack, and get a sneak peek inside our ECE classrooms. Open to individuals and playgroups.

Tuesday, March 20, 9:00-10:30 AM  
Wednesday, April 11, 9:00-10:30 AM

Friday, May 4, 2018

### HELP WITH EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Declan W. '17, a freshman at John Paul II High School, is a Boy Scout in St.



Mark's Troop 285, and he would like your help with his Eagle Scout Project. Declan is organizing a drive for the Samaritan Inn to collect urgently needed **small storage capacity USB drives and tub/shower cleaning supplies**. Please send one or more items to school with your student to help support Declan's Eagle Scout project and more importantly, the Samaritan Inn, the only homeless shelter in Collin County. Collection bins will be located in the school's main lobby just inside the school entrance from February 5-19. *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40*

### HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Ursuline students and Cistercian relatives: Are you interested in Varsity Cheer at Cistercian Preparatory School? There will be a Pre-Tryout Meeting on April 3 at 5:30 PM. Clinics take place April 17-19 from 4:30-7:00 PM, and tryouts take place April 20



**2. NEIGHBORHOOD BLOG/WEBSITE:** 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 take a moment to post our Open House and "Come and Play Day" dates (see above). If there is room for a detailed description, simply email [Debbie Reed](mailto:Debbie.Reed@stmark.org) and she'll send the information to you for posting.



Class basket donations and all Auction donations are due at the school by March 6. Volunteers will be available in the drop-off lines to accept your donations on March 6.



[2018 Auction Tickets Are On Sale Now - Click Here!](#)

Ticket sales will close March 30, 2018.



### New Challenges

Challenge 1: Winner will be announced next week!

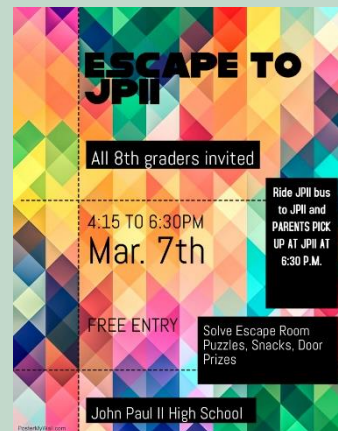
Challenge 2: Winners of a free hotel room night are Aaron and Angie Baldwin. Congratulations!

Challenge 3: All teacher tables purchased from 1/1-3/1 will get 2 VIP experiences and a bottle of wine on the night of the event

**How You Can Help the Auction:**

at 4:30 PM. For complete details, [click here](#) or visit [www.hawkscheerdallas.com](http://www.hawkscheerdallas.com).

Prospective parents are invited to join new JP II President, Deacon Jake Schroepfer, for coffee as he shares exciting updates and the vision for JP II in 2018 and beyond. "Coffee with the President" will be held on March 6 from 8:00-9:00 AM. [Click here](#) to register.



Click [here](#) for the Consent Form.



**Open Youth House:** There will be NO Open Youth House February 22-23.



1. Buy your tickets: Simply purchasing a ticket is a donation to the school.
2. Buy a teacher ticket: We have a large need for parents/ organizations to sponsor teacher tickets. This is a tax deductible donation and can be purchased on our [Auction website](#).
3. Auction Sponsorship: Do you own a small business that would help support St. Mark Catholic School? Contact [Jennifer Pike](#) to get details on our sponsorship packages.
4. Auction Donations: Do you work for a cool company that would like to donate a product to be auctioned-off or coupons for our swag bags? Do you have connections to a local business that would benefit from advertising their products and services to our community? Contact [Rebecca Battles](#) for details.

### Upcoming Auction Events:

March 6 - Carpool line drop-off for all auction donations (baskets, class crafts, corporate donations, etc.)

March 20: Panera Bread, Richardson: Spirit Night

May 11: Metroplex Spirit Night (rescheduled)

### Thank You:

A special thank you to all of the Pre-Auction Mixer host and co-host families!



**HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement. If you are interested, please check out the [Sign-Up Genius](#).



JA classes span five weeks, and each class is taught once a week for 30 minutes. 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](#) or [Angela Coulter](#).

### Lenten Fish Fry Service Opportunity for Grades 6-8:

February 16, March 2 and March 16. To sign-up, visit [www.stmarkplanoyouth.org](http://www.stmarkplanoyouth.org) (under "Service") or contact Cristy Mijares at 972-578-9583 or [cmijares@stmarkplano.org](mailto:cmijares@stmarkplano.org).

### BINGO KNIGHT

Join the St. Mark Knights



of Columbus Council 6065 for "Bingo Knight" benefiting pro-life charities on Saturday, February 24. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM and Bingo starts at 7:00 PM. Register online at [www.squareup.com/store/6065](http://www.squareup.com/store/6065) for \$25, or \$30 at the door. Grand prize is a \$600 gift card. Must be 21 years old.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR ST. MARK VBS

Save the date for Vacation Bible School at St. Mark Catholic Church: July 16-20, 2018!



Join us for Mass with the seminarians on Sunday, February 18 at 9:15 AM at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving. Mass is

Extra! Extra! Hear all about our Box Tops Challenge! Extra points on an exam for grades 3-8! Extra treat for PK3-2nd grade! Teacher gifts! AND



bragging rights! Box Tops are due on February 23. Please carefully cut out unexpired Box Tops from participating brands; place in a Ziploc bag or envelope; clearly write your child's grade/teacher on it; and turn them in to your child's teacher by February 23. Box Tops submitted without grade/teacher on them will not count for this competition! Please look for the flyer with the collection sheet in your student's folder/pack today. Classroom/Homebase winners will receive a "5 points on a quiz/exam" for grades 3-8 and winners in PK3-2 will receive a special treat. Thank you for your support!



All registered Talent Show participants and alternates have been sent a detailed email with information regarding rehearsals. If you have not received an email, please contact Jolea Broome at [jo\\_cool@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jo_cool@sbcglobal.net).



**2018 HSA General Meetings:**

\*Please note that the March HSA meeting is being replaced by the Talent Show.

\*May 2, 8:15 AM, Cafeterium: HSA 4th General Meeting



Looking to volunteer? Check out the master [Sign Up Genius](#) link and all the ways you can help out.

**ECE Music Help:** Mrs. Schell needs help with the PK3 classes as students learn basic movement and music skills. Be ready to dance, skip and play instruments! The volunteer position is open to ALL volunteers, not just PK3 parents. You must be current on your Safe Environment certification to participate. [Click here](#) to sign-up.

followed by a reception with the seminarians.

## FRENCH MASS AT CISTERCIAN

Come to French mass at Cistercian Abbey on Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 AM, 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving. There is an opportunity to do a reading in French and to enjoy French snacks afterwards.

## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

JPII Play:



TI Exec Inspires Middle School:



ECE Mardi Gras Parade:

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**ST. MARK SCRIP PROGRAM:** Purchase gift cards for gifts, or stock up for stores and restaurants that you frequent. Use the gift cards as you would your own cash or credit cards. Tell family and friends - anyone can order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale! Orders are accepted year round.



### ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

The mission of the Community Prayer Team is to provide ways that we, as a community, can come together and pray throughout the year. For more information about our Prayer Team, [click here](#).



**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.

**This Week's Prayer:** 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:**

- \*Family Adoration: Friday, March 2, 3:50-4:15 PM, Sanctuary
- \*Prayer Team meeting: Monday, March 5, 8:00 AM, Room 116
- \*Community Prayer Walk: Friday, March 23, 7:55 AM, Narthex

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**Ash Wednesday Mass:**





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