



St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
October 10, 2014

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Virtue of the Month – Empathy

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using either stories or activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Empathy" this month.

Reminders for Next Week

6th Grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass, and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Friday, October 10-Sunday, October 12: This is it--St. Mark Community Carnival time!

See details below.

Monday, October 13-Friday, October 17: Standardized Testing Week

See reminders below.

Monday, October 13-Friday, October 17

Vocations Week for 5th-8th graders.

Thursday, October 16: Free Dress Day for HSA Membership Drive Winners & Mrs. Corsi's Choir Carnival Volunteers

Mrs. Thompson's Kindergarten Class, Mrs. Samples' 1st Grade Class, and 8th Grade Green get a Free Dress Day for getting the largest percentage of HSA registrations! Mrs. Corsi's Choir students who signed-up to volunteer at the Carnival also get a Free Dress Day!

Friday, October 17: Middle School Yearbook Ads Due

[Click here](#) for more information or to place your order.

Friday, October 17, 8:00 AM, ECE Building: Fire Truck Visits Preschool

Rescheduled from October 6 due to weather.

Friday, October 17: All School Mass

Our All-School Mass will be held at 8:30 AM in the church. All are invited to attend. This Mass will be presented by the 6th grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

Reminders for Standardized Testing Week

To insure successful testing next week, please follow these guidelines:

1. Make sure your child is well-rested.
2. Send a nutritious snack with your child each day during testing week.
3. Students need to arrive on-time. They may not be admitted to the classroom once testing begins.
4. Please avoid scheduling appointments during testing week.

It's Carnival Time!

Come one, come all to the St. Mark Community Carnival this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 10-12 on the St. Mark campus! Enjoy rides, great music, fabulous food, and games. All proceeds benefit St. Mark Catholic Church and School, so bring your family and friends! [Click here](#) for hours and more information.

Please remember to observe all "No Parking" and "Tow Away Zone" signs around our campus and the surrounding area.

There will be lots of fun booths to visit, including our very own St. Mark Catholic School booth. **Stop by and purchase your Lions spirit gear (we will accept cash or checks), and sign-up for the All Souls Remembrance Run!**

The Carnival Committee would like to thank all St. Mark students for their October service project donations which helped to offset thousands of dollars in food costs!



8th Grade ISEE Pretest Opportunity

8th grade students may register to take an ISEE Pretest the week of November 10-14 during the school day at St. Mark Catholic School. Tests will be scored by Jennifer Harrell, Educational Consultant, and results emailed to you by December 5th along with prep group information. *(Preparatory groups will begin in January and students who participate should register for the January 17 ISEE test.)* Participation in this pretest does NOT commit you to the St. Mark ISEE Prep Groups. The cost for the pretest is \$20, and registration must be done online at <http://www.jenniferh.co>. **The registration deadline is October 31.**

St. Mark Catholic School Homecoming Festivities

Plan ahead for the upcoming St. Mark Homecoming festivities! Our Fall Pep Rally will take place in the New Gym on Thursday, October 23 from 10:45-11:30 AM (this is an early dismissal day). Parents are always welcome to attend! We'll celebrate ALL of our student athletes who participate on St. Mark teams during the fall season, watch a performance by our fabulous St. Mark cheerleaders, and as a special treat, the new gym names will be announced -- you won't want to miss it! On Sunday, October 26, our Varsity football team takes on St. Paul at 2:00 PM at John Paul II High School. Come out and cheer on your Lions! Our football players, cheerleaders and their families will be presented on the field during halftime, and our cheerleaders will do their traditional "candy toss" to the fans!

Don't Wait: Participate!



All Souls Remembrance Run: Mark your calendar and plan to join us on the St. Mark campus on Saturday, November 1 for our first ever "All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Run" benefiting our Athletic Department! There will be a 1K "fun run" starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome in both categories. Registration includes a commemorative t-shirt, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. Personalize your race t-shirt as you run in memory of a loved one for All Souls Day, a day designated for lifting up prayers for the departed in our Catholic tradition. [Click here](#) to be taken to the registration page. There are also many adult and student volunteer positions available. Contact Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net for more information. For student volunteers (eligible for service hours), please contact Eric Librea at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu.



28th Annual Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction: The 2015 St. Mark Catholic School Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction committee is pleased to announce that all proceeds from this year's event will be used solely for the purpose of putting technology into the hands of our students! Around the school halls, this has become "the year of technology." Efforts to put personal technology into our students' hands is being pursued aggressively. It is our goal to have personal devices that all students have access to by the end of this school year!

This is something that every student, every parent and every faculty member can get excited about! How can you help? Think about ways you can get involved. There are many opportunities to volunteer, both big and small.

The Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2015 in the Great Hall of the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Center. Watch for information about ticket sales in the coming weeks.

One feature of this year's auction will be the ability to purchase an electronic device directly for the school. You won't want to miss out!

Contact Auction Co-Chairs Steve Nasche at dallasprorealtor@gmail.com, or Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com for more information about how to get involved in the event planning.

News from the Athletics Department

Congratulations, Lions!

Last weekend, the 5th Grade Green and Gold Volleyball teams and the 7th Grade Volleyball team won their games. The 6th Grade D2 and 8th Grade Volleyball teams each won one of their games. Way to go, Lions!

Apologies! We failed to mention in last week's bulletin that the St. Mark 5th Grade Green Volleyball team won their games on October 4 – way to go, girls!

Swim Team Registration Remains Open

Registration for the St. Mark Junior Varsity and Varsity Swim Teams is open until October 30, 2014. The teams will participate in one DPL Swim Meet, date to be announced (timeframe is likely October 24-November 4, 2014). [Click here](#) for more information.

Tennis Team Registration Now Open

Registration for the St. Mark Junior Varsity and Varsity Tennis Teams is open and available to students in 5th-8th grades. The 2014 Dallas Parochial League Tennis Tournament will be held at Collin County Community College on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Matches could be

scheduled any time between 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, so athletes must be available all day. Schedule conflicts cannot be accommodated. The registration deadline is Friday, October 31, 2014 by 12:00 PM. Entries cannot be accepted after this date. Tournament brackets will be posted on the DPL website and distributed to the Athletic Directors on November 10, 2014. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) to register online, or submit a check payable to "St. Mark Catholic School" with the name of the sports team and the athlete's name on the memo line. The fee for Swimming and for Tennis is \$60. There is no uniform deposit for Swimming or Tennis. All athletes must have a current DPL Sports Physical form on file. [Click here](#) for the form (scroll to "Documents" section). Questions? Please email Athletic Director Marlene Ehrling at marlene.ehrling@stmcs.net.

\$5.00 Sports Physicals at Plano Urgent Care

Plano Urgent Care, located across the street from St. Mark at the northeast corner of 15th and Alma, is offering \$5.00 sports physicals for all St. Mark students and staff through December 31, 2014. All student athletes must have a current DPL Sports Physical form on file. Visit the school website to print the Sports Physical Form and the Plano Urgent Care information flyer: [click here](#) and scroll down to the "Documents" section.

Come out and cheer on your St. Mark Lions! This week's games:

Football

Sunday, October 12: St. Mark vs SPX, 2:00 PM @ John Paul II

Volleyball

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 8th Grade vs. POP, 11:00 AM @ Santa Clara

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 8th Grade vs. Santa Clara, 12:00 PM @ Santa Clara

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 7th Grade vs. MIS, 4:00 PM @ MIS

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 6th Grade D1 vs. POP, 3:00 PM @ St. Rita

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 6th Grade D1 vs. St. Rita, 4:00 PM @ St. Rita

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 6th Grade D2 vs. IC, 6:00 PM @ St. Patrick

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 6th Grade D2 vs. St. Patrick Green, 7:00 PM @ St. Patrick

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 5th Grade Gold vs. St. Patrick, 11:00 AM @ Highlands

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 5th Grade Gold vs. Highlands, 12:00 PM @ Highlands

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 5th Grade Green vs. CKS Red, 9:00 AM @ CKS

Saturday, October 11: St. Mark 5th Grade Green vs. St. Monica, 10:00 AM @ CKS

Help Wanted

The Athletics Department is planning a relaunch of our Friday morning "Lion's Den Spirit Store!" Athletic Director Marlene Ehring is looking for a few volunteers to assist with merchandise orders, and with store sales on Friday mornings. Interested? Email Marlene at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net.

Home and School Association (HSA) News

HSA Membership Drive: Thank you for supporting HSA! Once again, congratulations to our Membership Drive winners! **All students in these three classes will get free carnival tickets and a free dress day on October 16th!**

Mrs. Thompson's Kindergarten class

Mrs. Samples' 1st Grade class

8th Grade - Green

It's not too late -- let's work together for the good of our school! [Click here](#) to join HSA.

Our first HSA Meeting was a great success! THANK YOU to those who attended, and for the wonderful hospitality. We had an amazing spread of fresh fruit, cereal and yogurt. Hope to see you all at the December 10th meeting!



St. Mark Parish Priest Profile

As we count down to Priesthood Sunday which takes place on October 26, we thought our school families might enjoy getting to know our three St. Mark priests a little better: Our Pastor, Father Clifford Smith, Father Jack Hopka, and Father Henry Erazo. We asked them to answer a few questions about themselves and will share their answers in upcoming Weekly School Bulletins. This week, we profile our Pastor, Father Cliff.

Name: Clifford Gregory Smith

Where were you born? I was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 14, 1949. I grew up 65 miles west of Chicago in DeKalb, Illinois.

How many brothers/sisters do you have? I have two younger brothers, Chris, a doctor in Denver, and Colin, a lawyer in Chicago. I had a younger sister who passed away.

What year were you ordained? I was ordained at the Cathedral in Dallas by Bishop Charles Grahmann on May 18, 1996.

What are your hobbies? I like to read, do hobbies, cook and travel.

What do you enjoy most about your vocation? Teaching and celebrating Sacraments.

A little known/unknown fact about you? I worked in the theatre and was a prop manager on one movie.

Our students are making posters and thank-you cards which will be presented to our parish priests for Priesthood Sunday. As a reminder, parents are invited to send in thank-you notes as well by October 21.

John Paul II High School – Girls “Cardinal Softball Skills Camp”

Calling all girls interested in softball – join several St. Mark alums at the John Paul II “Cardinal Softball Skills Camp” presented by the JP II Varsity softball team, free of charge! It takes place on Sunday, November 1, 2014. K-4th: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM; 5th-8th: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. For more information, contact head coach Dianne Jones at diannejones@johnpaulihs.org.

Bishop Lynch High School Band/Color Guard Invitation

Bishop Lynch High School invites 7th/8th grade students who already play, or who are interested in learning to play woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments, or who may be interested in being a part of the Bishop Lynch Color Guard, to join them at the Bishop Lynch football home game on October 17. Meet at 5:30 PM in the Band Hall. Students are encouraged to bring along their instruments, and will be provided with some of the BL Band music so they can perform along with the band. The BL Band Parent Booster Club will provide the visiting students with a t-shirt and a meal that evening. Parents are also encouraged to attend. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

3rd Grade Shares Collections: Our 3rd graders recently read a story called “Prudy’s Problem and How She Solved It.” Prudy has a collecting problem – she collects too many things! But she comes up with a solution by opening a museum to share her collections. As an extension of that reading, students were asked to share their own collections with the class. From seashells to fishing lures to Matchbox cars, each student had an interesting story to tell about what and why they collect!



3rd Grade Critters: Our 3rd graders also had fun with “critters” in Science class. They observed earthworms, snails, ladybugs and crickets and charted their observations.



Middle School Spanish Classes Praying for Vocations: As we look ahead to Vocations Week, it’s a great time to mention something very special that Mrs. Denvir’s middle school Spanish classes are doing to pray in a meaningful way for our 80 Seminarians in DFW. Mrs. Denvir is a member of the Serra Club of North Central Dallas (which includes our parish; club Chaplain is Father Cliff). She has been going to the Holy Trinity Seminary every other week to support our Seminarians. Mrs. Denvir and the Seminarians came up with the exciting idea of bringing vocational awareness to the forefront in her Spanish class by introducing them to our St. Mark students via short interviews that she will start filming next week. All Seminarians have to learn Spanish like our students do (or already speak Spanish because of their origins), so our students will learn basic details about each of the Seminarians in candid video snippets in Spanish, and will be able to put a face on all the “super heroes” currently in the Seminary in our Diocese (who have been constantly praying for St. Mark students and families). Students can, in turn, pray for the Seminarians. She will introduce new Seminarians every week via PowerPoint presentations and videos. Cristian Bustos-Garduño, (sophomore from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, originally from Mexico), and Jose Luis Orellana-Hernandez (pre-Theologian II from the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, originally from El Salvador) will be introduced first. Mrs. Denvir always starts her class with a prayer in Spanish (“Padre Nuestro”) and told the students that from now on, the daily prayer is going to be directed specifically at our spiritually adopted Seminarians. Following is a picture of Cristian (right) and Jose Luis (top) with Mrs. Denvir.





LION PRIDE!

Just a few of the many reasons we're so proud to be St. Mark Lions! ...

St. Mark Wins Ribbons at Diocesan Speech Tournament: Members of our Middle School Speech elective participated in the Diocesan Speech Tournament hosted by St. Rita on Saturday, October 4. Congratulations to the following students who won ribbons in their events:

Chelsea Arnold and Vanessa Davila - Blue Ribbon in TV Commercial (see their photo at the top of the bulletin); Minh-Tuan Phung - Red Ribbon in Oratory; Mia Caruso, Erin Battenfield and Sydney Leever - Red Ribbon in TV Commercial; Joseph Ferri, William Gannon and Diego Guzman-Landeros - Red Ribbon in TV Commercial