



**St. Mark Catholic School**  
**Weekly School Bulletin**  
**October 23, 2014**

**In this Issue:**

**Virtue of the Month**

**Reminders for Next Week**

**School Nurse Announcement**

**Don't Wait: Participate!**

**News from the Athletics Department**

**Help Wanted**

**Home & School Association (HSA) News**

**Wear Your Crazy Socks/Ties on Halloween!**

**Boy Scout Popcorn and Holiday Wreath Sale This Weekend**

**Parish Priest Profile**

**Photos Wanted**

**Seen & Heard Around St. Mark**

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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**

**Friday, October 24: No School, UD Ministry Conference for Staff**

**Sunday, October 26, 2:00 PM, John Paul II: St. Mark Homecoming Football Game**

**Sunday, October 26: Priesthood Sunday**

Be sure to thank our parish priests for their service to our community.

**Monday, October 27: No School, Parent Teacher Conferences**

**Wednesday, October 29, 9:00 AM, Cafetorium: Fire Clowns Presentation for TK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades**

**Thursday, October 30, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade “Spunky Pumpkin” Play**

Parents are welcome to attend.

**Friday, October 31: Deadline to Register for ISEE Pretest at St. Mark**

**Friday, October 31, 8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass**

All are invited to attend. This Mass will be presented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

**Friday, October 31: Halloween Parties; ECE Wears Costumes/Parade; Crazy Sock/Tie Day**

See details below.

**Saturday, November 1: 2015-16 Applications Available for Prospective Families**

**Saturday, November 1, 8:00 AM, St. Mark Campus: All Souls Remembrance Run**

See details below.

**Sunday, November 2, 11:30 AM–1:00 PM, School Library: Open House for Prospective Families**

**Sunday, November 2, 9:00 AM–12:00 NOON, Old Gym: Opening Day of the St. Mark Book Fair - Family & Parish Day; Student Council Book Collection for Scottish Rite**

See Book Fair and Scottish Rite book collection information below.

**Sunday, November 2: Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back One Hour!**

**School Nurse Announcement**

We announce with heavy hearts that Ann Berard has made the decision not to return to St. Mark as our school nurse. Mrs. Berard has been caring for our school community for the past 10 years. During this time, she has devoted herself to making sure our families and teachers feel safe and supported while attending to their medical and long term health needs. Her warm and caring presence will be missed by our students, with whom she has formed such a special bond, as well as our families and our entire staff.

Caroline Townsend will replace Mrs. Berard as our school nurse. Mrs. Townsend is a graduate of Texas Tech University, and comes to us from Medical City where she has been working in their NICU unit. She is very excited to join the staff, and to meet our students. If she doesn't answer to "Mrs. Townsend" right away, it's because she is a newlywed, so you may have to say it twice! Her first day with us will be Monday, October 27. Please extend a warm St. Mark welcome to her.

**Don't Wait: Participate!**



**St. Mark Book Fair:** Support our school library at the "Wild about Reading" Book Fair. It will begin with a Preview Day on Friday, October 31. Students will have an opportunity to preview the selections and make a wish list. Our first full day of sales is "Family Day" on Sunday, November 2. Please bring your family anytime between 9:00 AM and 12:00 NOON.

During the Book Fair, your child will fill out a wish list including the book title, author and price (minus tax) of each book. That wish list will be sent home. Parents will have the opportunity to approve the books chosen, and give permission for alternate choices if some books are no longer available (books are available on a first come, first serve basis and books cannot be held). Money can then be sent to school with the child to purchase the books on the wish list. Please remember 8.25% tax will be added to all items purchased. We take cash, check, and credit cards (Visa and MasterCard only). Teachers will also have wish lists available if you would like to purchase books for their classrooms. Parents are welcome to stop by anytime Monday through Wednesday between 7:45 AM and 4:00 PM, and Thursday between 7:40 AM and 12:00 NOON. The classroom schedule is posted below if you would like to visit the Book Fair during your child's class visit.

**Friday, October 31, 8:30 AM-12:00 NOON - TEACHER AND STUDENT PREVIEW DAY**

Students make their wish lists and take them home.

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM - 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup>Grade  
10:00AM - 10:30 AM - 5<sup>th</sup>/ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11:30 AM - 12:00 NOON - PreK  
12:00 NOON - 12:30 PM - TK and Kindergarten

**Sunday, November 2, 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON – OPENING DAY - FAMILY AND PARISH DAY**

Stop by Sunday morning before or after Mass and shop 'til you drop!

**Monday-Wednesday, November 3-5, 7:40 AM – 4:00 PM - STUDENT BROWSE AND SHOP**

"Pastries For Parents" takes place on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 AM. The Book Fair will also open at 7:30 AM that day so that parents may visit. See details below.

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM - PreK  
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM - TK and Kindergarten  
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

1:05 PM-1:35 PM - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

1:35 PM - 2:05 PM - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

2:05 PM - 2:35 PM - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Thursday, November 6, 7:40 AM - 12:00 NOON - LAST CHANCE TO SHOP!**

Only those who are making purchases will go to the Book Fair.

**Pastries for Parents:** You and your child(ren) are invited to join us at "Pastries For Parents" on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 AM in the Cafetorium (children must be accompanied by a parent). Enjoy a special breakfast of donuts, juice, and coffee. Then, support the St. Mark Library and stop by the Book Fair in the Old Gym to pick up some new books -- hope to see you there!

**Book Fair Poster Contest:** All students are encouraged to participate in the "Wild About Reading" poster contest. Please have your child use a half sheet of poster board to draw a scene including an animal from their favorite book. Students are to write the title of the book on the front of the poster, and their name, age, grade, and teacher's name on the back. Posters are due to the school office by Monday, November 3. Winners will be chosen on Wednesday, November 5 and will be displayed in the school hallway. The names of the winners will be announced in an upcoming school bulletin.

**NEW THIS YEAR! Student Council Collects Books for Scottish Rite:** This year our Student Council will be collecting new children's books benefiting the children at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. This is a new service project for St. Mark Catholic School. Please consider donating a new children's book for Christmas. There will be a poster and a decorated collection box to drop off the books in the "Lions Lair" gym (formerly the Old Gym).

**Volunteer:** Sign up to volunteer at the Book Fair! If you'd like to volunteer during your child's classroom visit time, refer to the schedule above. To register, simply go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cob4ba5af2ba31-book>.



**All Souls Remembrance Run:** Only one week to go! 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](mailto:marlene.ehring@stmcs.net) for more information. For student volunteers (eligible for service hours), please contact Eric Librea at [ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu).



Have you gotten involved in the Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction planning yet? If not, contact Auction Co-Chair Raju Kattady at [rajukattady@hotmail.com](mailto:rajukattady@hotmail.com) for more information. There's an opportunity for everyone to take part. Whether it's heading a committee, or volunteering a small amount of your time, we can use your help!

## News from the Athletics Department

### Congratulations, Lions!

Last weekend, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Green and Gold Volleyball teams won their games, as did the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade D2 team. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade won one, lost one. Way to go, Lions!

### Basketball Registration Now Open

Registration for the St. Mark Basketball teams is now open. Basketball is open to all students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Team evaluations will take place soon – dates to be announced. The registration fee is \$110, and the uniform deposit is \$100. For more information, [click here](#).

**Swim Team** registration is now closed. **Tennis Team** registration remains open until October 31. [Click here](#) for more information on Tennis.

[Click here](#) to register online for any of these sports teams, or submit a check payable to "St. Mark Catholic School" with the athlete's name and sport on the memo line, to the school office.

**Remember, all athletes must have a current DPL Sports Physical form on file BEFORE team evaluations take place.** [Click here](#) for the form (scroll to "Documents" section). (All athletes who participated in Football, Volleyball or Cheerleading are already cleared for the year.)

Questions? Please email Athletic Director Marlene Ehring at [marlene.ehring@stmcs.net](mailto:marlene.ehring@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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26: HOMECOMING GAME! St. Mark vs. St. Paul, 2:00 PM @ John Paul II. Football players and cheerleaders will be announced at halftime, and the cheerleaders will do their traditional candy toss to the crowd – you won't want to miss it!**

### **Volleyball**

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. All Saints, 3:00 PM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 7<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. St. Monica, 2:00 PM @ MIS

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 7<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. St. Rita, 3:00 PM @ MIS

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 6<sup>th</sup> Grade D1 vs. St. Monica, 1:00 PM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Gold vs. St. Rita, 9:00 AM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Gold vs. MIS, 12:00 PM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Green vs. POP, 9:00 AM @ POP

Saturday, October 25: St. Mark 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Green vs. Holy Family, 10:00 AM @ POP

**Be sure to visit our fully-stocked Concession Stand during our home games for refreshments and St. Mark Lions gear!**

### **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](mailto:marlene.ehring@stmcs.net).

### **Home & School Association (HSA) News**

**Earn Money for St. Mark with Scrip Gift Cards:** Plan for the holidays and beyond -- purchase plastic gift cards or eCards from participating retailers and a percentage is given back to St. Mark! Over 400 retailers participate including Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Chipotle, Fridays, Hyatt, Macy's, Dillards, Toys R Us, Kohls, and many more. Tell family and friends – anyone can order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale! There are two ways to shop and earn money for St. Mark:

1. Order plastic gift cards. These orders will be taken **November 10 through December 3 using a paper order form OR online order form**, and will be distributed to families before Christmas break. More information on this option coming soon.

2. Order eCards online. This option is available now, and lasts year round. Continue purchasing and reloading cards all year long while earning money for our school. To order eCards, please see the attached flyer.

If you have questions, contact Miki Heiss, Scrip Card Coordinator, at [StMarkScrip@outlook.com](mailto:StMarkScrip@outlook.com).

**Halloween Party:** On Friday, October 31, our students will celebrate Halloween at their first class party of the year, hosted by our classroom Room Parents. Preschool, TK and Kindergarten students can wear Halloween costumes to school that day (please make sure costumes are comfortable enough to wear all day, and please do not send toy guns, swords, etc. to school). It should be a spooky, fun afternoon!

### **Wear Your Crazy Socks/Ties on Halloween!**

Student Council is sponsoring "Crazy Sock & Crazy Tie Day" on Halloween. Students in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades: Pay \$1.00 and wear your craziest socks and/or tie to school on October 31!

### **Boy Scout Popcorn and Holiday Wreath Sale This Weekend**

This Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, the St. Mark Boy Scouts (Troop 285) will be selling popcorn and taking orders for holiday wreaths before and after most Mass times.

Questions about popcorn: Shannon Karicher at [skaricher@yahoo.com](mailto:skaricher@yahoo.com); questions about wreaths: Sandra Hernandez at [sannjoeg72@gmail.com](mailto:sannjoeg72@gmail.com).

### **Parish Priest Profile**

In our last installment of our "Parish Priest Profiles," we hear from Father Jack Hopka. We hope you enjoyed learning a little more about our priests, and will take some time to thank them for their dedication to the families in our community on Priesthood Sunday, which takes place on October 26.

**Name:** Father Jack Hopka

**Where were you born?** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**How many brother/sisters do you have?** None

**What year were you ordained?** 1979

**What are your hobbies?** Meteorology

**What do you enjoy most about your vocation?** The Mass

### **Photos Wanted**

Do you have photos from sporting events or other activities at St. Mark that you'd like to share? We'd love to include them in our communication efforts on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. Simply email any photos you have (from any school year) to [debbie.reed@stmcs.net](mailto:debbie.reed@stmcs.net). We can especially use photos from:

American Heritage Girls  
Auction  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Boy Scouts  
Cub Scouts  
Catholic Schools Week  
Cheerleading  
Choir  
Community Service  
Cross Country  
Girl Scouts  
Golf  
HSA  
History Bee  
Junior Achievement

PSIA  
Pep Rallies  
Robotics  
Soccer  
Softball  
Speech Tournament  
Spelling Bee  
Spring Musical  
Spunky Pumpkin  
Student Council  
Swimming  
Tennis  
Track  
Volleyball  
Volunteers (parents)

## Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

**Pep Rally Excitement:** The entire student body, faculty, staff and parents were treated to a rollicking pep rally today that recognized all of our fall athletes. Our amazing cheerleaders and band both performed for the crowd, and pumped up our football team to face St. Paul at the Homecoming game this Sunday at 2:00 PM at John Paul II High School!

**Gym Renaming:** Earlier this month, students proposed and voted on new names for our school gymnasiums, which were announced at our Fall Pep Rally. The Old Gym has been renamed the "Lion's Lair," and the New Gym has been renamed "Bacot Gym," in honor of Mrs. Suzanne Bacot, Principal of St. Mark Catholic School for 31 years. Mrs. Bacot herself was on hand for the gym rededication and blessing that was performed by Deacon Ed Putonti. New signs will be hung at the gym entrances, and new lettering has been installed at the entrance to Bacot Gym. Congratulations to Mrs. Bacot on this honor! See the photo at the top of the bulletin.

**Enrichment Clubs Begin:** Our After-School Enrichment Clubs are off to a great start! Students of all ages participated in activities such as the Workout Club, the Board Game Club, Math & Measurement, Chess Club, and Art Club. Our students had fun learning and playing together!





**Preschool Fire Truck Day:** Our preschool students enjoyed a visit from the Plano Fire Department last week. They were able to go inside a fire truck, they saw what a firefighter looks like dressed in full gear, and learned all about fire safety.



**Living Rosary:** Yesterday, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students presented the Living Rosary for our TK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each 5<sup>th</sup> grader held a “rosary bead” and recited the prayer that corresponded to their rosary bead.

**Congratulations 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades!** Ms. Burke has been using the website, StraightAce, for English objectives homework and Apps Lab enrichment work. Because her students were diligent in working on and mastering a high percentage of objectives on the website, she was eligible to be entered into a weekly drawing, and she just won \$100 in supplies for her classroom! Way to go, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English students!

**Holy Trinity Seminarians Visit St. Mark:** On October 17, our students received a surprise when Holy Trinity Seminarians Cristian Bustos-Garduño and AJ Motte (sophomores from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston), and Matthew Tadyshak (sophomore from the Diocese of Dallas) came and spent an entire morning with them. As the Seminarians prepared for a free weekend, Mrs. Denvir invited Cristian Bustos to attend our weekly All School Mass with us. Cristian brought along his brother Seminarians AJ and Matthew, and they served our All School Mass alongside our own altar servers, led by our Pastor Father Cliff. It was a particularly moving sight. After Mass, Mrs. Denvir took Cristian, AJ, and Matthew to each Middle School class for Q&As, and introduced them to all of the students. They spent the entire morning engaging our students and spreading joy, selflessness, and generosity. They were wonderful role-models who were humble and very well-spoken. They also met with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and received a special visit from Monsignor Metzger. What an incredible day!

Mrs. Denvir invites students and their families to join her at Holy Trinity Seminary for any upcoming public Mass. The next public Mass is this Sunday, October 26 at 9:15 AM, followed by a social (donuts) with all of the Seminarians. If you plan to go, please let her know in advance if possible at [agnes.denvir@stmcs.net](mailto:agnes.denvir@stmcs.net). Other upcoming public Masses will be on November 2, 9, and 16. Holy Trinity Seminary is located at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062 (exit Cistercian), [www.holytrinityseminary.org](http://www.holytrinityseminary.org).



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Makes Salad, Learns About Ingredients:** On Tuesday, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students each brought in one ingredient contribute to a salad. They were asked to tell the class some facts about their ingredient, and then they added it to the bowl. Everyone got to learn about each vegetable, and then tasted the results!

**Carnival Fun:** Kindergarten student Cooper D. and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Annabel M. rode the big slide at our St. Mark Community Carnival a couple of weeks ago. Annabel enjoyed it. Cooper wasn't so sure. See their priceless photo that recently appeared in *The Dallas Morning News* by [clicking here](#).