



St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
November 21, 2014

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Virtue of the Month – Conscience

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 "Conscience" this month.

Vocations Chalice

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.

Reminders for the Next Two Weeks

Monday, November 24-Friday, November 28: No School, Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, December 1: School Resumes

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 AM: Mathfax Competition

Eligible students have been notified by teachers.

Wednesday, December 3, 9:45-10:15AM, Cafetorium: Jesuit Theater Group for Grades 5-8

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 PM, McGivney Hall (Parish Center): Recognizing & Responding to Social/Emotional Warning Signs in Young Persons Workshop

Wednesday, December 3: Scrip "Plastic" Gift Card Sales End

See details below.

Friday, December 5: Middle School Yearbook Ad Photos Due

Friday, December 5, Church: 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.

Spotlight on Faculty -- Another Work of Heart Award for St. Mark

Congratulations to Middle School Foreign Language teacher, Agnes Denvir, on receiving the Catholic Foundation's Work of Heart Award for the month of November! Mrs. Denvir is a passionate educator (who, incidentally, speaks 12 languages!), and is so deserving of this award. This is the 36th time that a St. Mark staff member has received the Work of Heart since its inception in 2005.

Presented by The Catholic Foundation, Work of Heart Awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. We at St. Mark are blessed to have so many recipients of this award on our staff. Would you like to nominate someone? It's easy -- simply visit The Catholic Foundation's [website](#) and submit an online nomination form.

Reminder - Parishioner Tuition Status

In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2014. Please refer to page 7 of the Parent Student Handbook for more information. Checks (made payable to "St. Mark Catholic Church") may be placed in the weekly collection basket, or [click here](#) to submit your electronic payment to the parish and/or set-up recurring payments.

End-of-Year Giving

If you are considering an additional end-of-year donation, St. Mark Catholic Church and School are non-profit organizations that allow for you to make tax deductible donations. As the end of the year approaches and you review your tax-deductible donations, please consider donating to your own St. Mark community. Please also check with your company to determine if matching funds are available.

- To make a donation to St. Mark Catholic Church, [click here](#).
- To make a donation to the St. Mark Catholic School Gap Fund, [click here](#).
- To donate towards St. Mark Catholic School's technology fund through the Digital Wish website, [click here](#).
- If you would like to make a monetary donation to a particular department or program at St. Mark Catholic School (i.e. Athletics), please [click here](#). Please enter the amount under "Miscellaneous," and specify the program in the "comments" section.

Don't Wait: Participate!



Calling all techies, creative minds and anyone who just wants to get involved! The Auction committee is still in need of volunteers. Volunteers are needed to spread the word about our school auction, sell tickets, make solicitations, perform data entry, and assist with venue decorating and set-up. If interested, please contact Auction Co-Chair Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com.



Digital Wish Technology Donations: St. Mark is now accepting technology-specific donations through Digital Wish. [Click here](#) to help equip our students with iPads and iPad carts, and feel free to share this link with family, friends and associates who might like to help.

News from the Athletics Department

DPL Tennis Tournament: The DPL Tennis Tournament was held last weekend. Kudos to our entire St. Mark tennis team! Special congratulations to Olivia S. who is the Girls JV Singles Champion in the Competitive division, Paul K. who received 2nd place in the Boys JV Singles Recreation division, Ethan M. and Cristian D. who tied for 3rd place in the Boys Varsity Doubles Recreation division, and Meghan S. who received 2nd place in the Girls Varsity Singles Recreation division consolation bracket. **GO LIONS!**

Home & School Association (HSA) News



Scrip Gift Cards: Plan for the holidays and beyond! Purchase plastic gift cards or eCards from participating retailers, and a percentage will be 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!

Between now and December 3, order plastic cards using a paper order form. Plastic gift cards will be distributed to families before Christmas break. Or, you may order eCards online year round. [Click here](#) for instructions and a link to the paper order form.

Grade-level contests are taking place now through December 3. **The three families who purchase the most gift cards by December 3 will receive a complimentary gift card from HSA!**

If you have questions, please contact Miki Heiss, Scrip Card Coordinator, at StMarkScrip@outlook.com.



Teacher and Staff Christmas Dinner: The annual Teacher and Staff Christmas Dinner is coming up on Tuesday, December 16 at 4:30 PM. This event, hosted by Father Cliff and the HSA, is a way to show our appreciation for our amazing teachers and staff. Father Cliff will be providing the main entrée and sides. HSA will provide the hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages, and tokens of appreciation. Please help by signing up to bring something for the dinner. [Click here](#) for the Sign-up Genius. Thank you for helping to make this year's dinner an extra special evening for our wonderful St. Mark teachers and staff!



Movie Night: Your family is invited to attend a movie night on Friday, December 5 in the Cafetorium, compliments of HSA! The Polar Express will be showing, and dinner is included! Doors open at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served at that time. Showtime starts at 6:30 PM. Blankets, pillows, and PJs are welcome! Please register online in advance. For more information and to register online, [click here](#). This is HSA's way of thanking all of our incredible families for joining this year and for supporting all of our great activities and events.

Coat drive: HSA will be collecting new or gently used coats for those in need. Please consider donating a coat at the Family Movie Night.

Box Tops: Please keep sending in your Box Tops. We will have another grade level competition in February!

Upcoming HSA meeting: Save the date for the next HSA General Meeting: December 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium.

Used Uniform Sale: Please consider donating your gently used uniforms to the Used Uniform Sale. This sale will take place in January and the funds generated will be put towards HSA activities. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the school office.

In Alumni News...

Former Lion An Olympian: Thomas Scott, St. Mark Class of 2004, recently contacted us with an update. Upon graduation from St. Mark, he attended Jesuit College Preparatory School, earned a BS in Criminal Justice from Texas Christian University, followed by a Masters degree in Entrepreneurship from the University of Texas at Dallas. He has been studying karate since

he was eight years old (including his years at St. Mark), and has been a member of the U.S. Olympic karate team for the past five years!

John Paul II High School Christmas Bazaar

The John Paul II Cardinal Women's Auxiliary invite you to their Christmas Bazaar featuring a wide variety of vendors. The event will take place at John Paul II High School. Admission is free. Hours are Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday, November 23 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

The Food Pantry is Fully Stocked! For the last two months, the shelves at the St. Vincent de Paul Food pantry have been almost bare. They are now fully stocked thanks to the generosity of our students and parents during our November all-school service project. On behalf of the pantry, we would like to thank you. - Mrs. Hazzard and Mrs. Hollenbeck

1st Grade Presents "The Giving Tree" at Mass: First grade did a great job presenting "The Giving Tree" play during the homily at today's All-School Mass.

1st Grade Stone Soup: 1st grade recently completed their "Stone Soup" unit. Throughout the week, students read different versions of the story, they made various thinking and bubble maps, wrote a Stone Soup recipe and created their own chef hats. They also chopped ingredients and made "Stone Soup" in class on Wednesday that they all got to enjoy! ("No stones," exclaimed one student!) This lesson incorporated several subjects including Reading, Writing and Math.

3rd Grade Play: Our third grade classes performed a play entitled "Pushing Up the Sky" for our second graders this week. This story is in their third grade reader and falls under the "drama" genre, so they always perform it as a play. Everyone has a part and provides simple costumes and props. It is a myth about how something in nature came to be, specifically, why the sky is so far away, and why we see stars at night. They did a beautiful job!

4th Grade Saint Projects: 4th grade recently presented their saint projects. They were given the task of creating a PowerPoint presentation about a saint and presenting it to the class. Many students also dressed as their saint and created informative posters. Nice work, 4th grade!

Girl Scouts Compassion Tour: Members of the St. Mark 4th grade Girl Scouts recently embarked on a "Compassion Tour." It gave them a virtual experience of the lives of three children living in poverty around the world. The girls "visited" India, Ecuador, and Uganda and stepped into how one person could impact the life of these children by helping to give education, safety, and hope for a future. It also explained how each of these children gave back to their communities and ended up helping others escape poverty, crime, addiction, and hopelessness. Afterwards, the girls talked about ways they could make a difference in our world. The discussion sparked some very insightful thoughts and dialogue.



LION PRIDE!

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

Texas Quiz Bowl: The middle school Quiz Bowl was held at St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas on Saturday, November 15. St. Mark Catholic School entered twelve students on three teams. They competed against teams from Cistercian, Greenhill, St. Joseph, St. Monica and St. Mark's School of Texas, facing off to answer academic-centered questions. They all did a great job and all three teams made it to the play-offs! Congratulations to everyone who participated: Jacob A., Athena B., Sarah H., Ethan J., Joel K., Antonio M., Jaibin M., Joann N., Minh-Khanh P., Charlie S., Ian S., and Tia T.

1st Grade Boys Soccer: The 1st grade boys YMCA soccer team coached by Aaron Baldwin and Kyle Lynch completed their season last week in 2nd place with a 7-1 record and demonstrated great sportsmanship and team work along the way. Congratulations to the following team members: William B., Mason B., Zane B., Ambrose D., Jack D., Brady G., Trey G., Nolan L., Korbin M., Will P., Mikey T., Rhys W., Alex V.!

Being Thankful

During this season of Thanksgiving, let us all give thanks for the privilege of being a part of our wonderful St. Mark community. The faculty and staff count each and every one of you among our many blessings. Here's what others in our community are grateful for ...

Seminarian is Thankful: Holy Trinity Seminarian Ivan Torres is so thankful for the ongoing and mutual flow of prayers between all of the St. Mark middle schoolers and the seventy-three Seminararians in formation at Holy Trinity Seminary, that he is currently making a corded rosary bracelet for every single student in middle school. It means that he is in the process of making 192 rosaries! Mrs. Denvir wants to say a big thank you to all of the students and their families for supporting our Seminararians, and especially her students for showing how caring and thankful they are with their daily prayers and voluntary letters. Please make sure that you "like" the Holy Trinity Seminary Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HTSeminary> to stay informed about their public Masses throughout the year. Also, check out their wonderful video "A Day in the Life of a Catholic Seminarian" to see some of the Seminararians who are praying for us and that we are praying for: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6GPU7n1NME> Below are pictures of Seminarian Ivan Torres, his spools at HTS which he is using to make the rosary bracelets (colors chosen by our middle school students!), and one of the adjustable bracelets he made. ¡Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias! In addition, please [click here](#) to see one of our middle school classes dedicating a Padre Nuestro prayer to our seminararians.

