



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

October 9, 2015

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REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday, October 10:
-5:30 PM, Cafetorium: Boy Scout Troop 285 50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, October 11:
-St. Mark Homecoming Games, John Paul II High School Field (JV 12:00 PM; Varsity 2:00 PM)



**A NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**

St. Mark Catholic School is a two time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education "National Blue Ribbon Award." This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!

Monday, October 12-Friday, October 16:

-Standardized Testing Week, Grades 1-8 (see details below)

Wednesday, October 14, 2:30 PM, Church:

-Living Rosary, presented by 5th grade

Friday, October 16:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 7th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

Saturday, October 17:

-6:30 PM, St. Mark Field: Parish Youth Picnic Dinner & Outdoor Movie (see details below)

Monday, October 19:

-7:00 PM, Great Room, St. Mark Parish Center: 8th Grade Parent/Teen Confirmation Meeting (see details below)

STANDARDIZED TESTING WEEK REMINDERS

Standardized testing (Iowa Assessments and CogAT) takes place next week for all students in grades 1-8. To insure successful testing, please follow these guidelines:

1. **It is imperative that your student arrive to school on time during testing week. All students must be in their seats no later than 8:00 AM each day.** Tardy students will not be permitted to enter the classroom after that time, and will be required to wait until the next testing sessions begins. Tardy students will not be scored on test sessions that they miss. The only exception to this rule is if a child misses school due to illness. In this case, please present a doctor's note to the school receptionist and make-up test arrangements will be made.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations Chalice

7th grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.



Reverence:

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Reverence" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2015-16.



All-School Service Project

Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church. To help students understand that by serving others, they are serving God, they will participate in a required all-school service project each month. **Students will receive a homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.**

October Project: St. Mark Parish Fall Festival Donations

2. Please avoid scheduling appointments during testing week.
3. Make sure your child is well-rested.
4. Send a nutritious, nut-free snack with your child each day during testing week.

Thank you for your cooperation!

8TH GRADE PARENT/TEEN CONFIRMATION MEETING

Reminder: The 8th Grade Parent/Teen Confirmation Meeting will take place on Monday, October 19 at 7:00 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. One parent and one Confirmation candidate need to attend.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is Rosary Month. Throughout the month of October, we will be saying the rosary every Wednesday morning at 7:25 AM in the Cafeteria with any students present at that time. Students are encouraged to bring their own rosaries with them. **Parents are welcome to attend.**

Faculty and staff members will also say the rosary together on Tuesday afternoons during October.

PARISHIONER TUITION STATUS/PARISH DONATIONS

Reminder: In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2015. You can pay by check (made out to "St. Mark Catholic Church") and submit it to the parish office, or to the school office in an envelope marked "parish donation." Or, you can use the church's electronic payment site by [clicking here](#).

Students will donate needed items to the St. Mark Parish Fall Festival. A link to the list of items by grade level is shown below. Items should be taken to the grade-level religion teacher.

Catholic Social Teaching: Call to family, community and participation

Who Benefits? St. Mark Catholic Community

Due Date: October 22, 2015

Link: [Fall Festival Donation List](#)



Calling all alumni ... join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network! Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. Click [here](#) for more information.



Get your official LION gear here! Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium.

Can't visit in person? [Place your order online anytime!](#)

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our St. Mark Spirit Days, which will be held the first Monday of each month!

Recurring payments can also be set-up using this link. Please refer to page 11 of the Parent Student Handbook for more information about the parish donation.



OCTOBER -- CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH!

All St. Mark Parishioners: During the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration, various organizations and groups will be celebrated. In October, we are celebrating and honoring the youth of our parish. **Please join us for the following Masses this weekend highlighting our youth groups:**

October 10-11

Troops of St. George - Saturday, 5:30 PM
Columbian Squires - Sunday, 9:00 AM
American Heritage Girls - Sunday, 10:30 AM
Girl Scouts - Sunday, 4:30 PM
Boy Scouts - Sunday, 6:00 PM

YOUTH PICNIC-MOVIE NIGHT -- BIG HERO 6, Saturday, October 17, 6:30 PM on the St.

Mark Field: Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner, blanket and potluck dessert to share. Don't forget your Frisbees, balls and hula hoops to add to the fun! Dinner is at 6:30 PM followed by a movie, Big Hero 6, at 7:00 PM (dusk).

WORLD YOUTH DAY NORTH TEXAS

What: World Youth Day North Texas

Who: Grades 6-8

When: Sunday, October 25, 2015

Times: Meet 11:30 AM; return 10:00 PM

ST. MARK "KEEPING KIDS SAFE" PROGRAM

St. Mark Catholic Church presents "Smart Tips for Keeping Kids Safe" with Officer Christopher Biane, sponsored by The Women of St. Mark and Family & Adult Ministry.

*Thursday, October 15, 2015, Great Room, St. Mark Parish Center

*6:30 PM - Hot dogs, chips, lemonade, cookies

*7:00 PM - "Keeping Kids Safe" Program

There is no charge for parents and kids. Pre-registration is required. Call 972-424-5794 or [click here](#) for the registration form.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***DPL Swim Team**

Registration Now Open:

Important notice for all potential Swim Team members -- DPL has not yet announced a date for the 2015 Swim Meet. Online registration is now open for anyone interested, with the caveat that the event date is TBD. **Please do not make any registration payments until a swim meet date and**

Where: Levitt Pavilion for Performing Arts
(note: it will not be held at Six Flags this year)

How: We will meet at, and return to the Youth Center. We will travel together by bus. The Youth Center is in the St. Mark Parish Center (use the back entrance facing the black seven-story building).

Cost \$40.00

Deadline: There are limited spots - ALL PAPERWORK AND MONEY DUE BY OCTOBER 14!

Link to the paperwork:
<http://stmarkplanoyouth.org/forms.html>

Contact the office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for details at 972-578-9583.

RAISING CANE'S GIFT CERTIFICATES SENT HOME TODAY

Each student is receiving a Raising Cane's gift certificate, which is being sent home today. These certificates were donated by Raising Cane's because St. Mark raised more money for the "Hike for Life" event than we did last year. Congratulations, everyone!

JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Visit JP II during their upcoming Open House on Wednesday, October 21 from 5:30-8:00 PM. Come and meet the JP II faculty and students, tour the facility and grab dinner at the sponsored food trucks (complimentary for "Future Cardinals"). Register at www.johnpaulihs.org.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

venue have been confirmed.

Please visit the [Swimming](#) page on the school website and review the prerequisites for team registration. [DPL Sports Physical Forms](#) should be submitted at your earliest convenience to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

***DPL Tennis Tournament** registration for students in grades 5-8 is now open. The deadline to register is October 26 at 12:00 PM. More details and registration information can be found [here](#).

***Come out and cheer on your St. Mark Lions this weekend!**

Upcoming Football Games: Join our cheerleading squads, take a picture with our Lion mascot, and cheer on our St. Mark Lions!

Junior Varsity

*10/11, 12:00 PM vs. St. Patrick @ JP II -
HOMECOMING GAME

Varsity

*10/11, 2:00 PM vs. East Dallas Knights @ JP II -
HOMECOMING GAME

Important Upcoming HSA Dates:

Thursday October 29: Classroom Halloween Parties/ PreK-K Halloween Costume Dress Day

Saturday October 31: St. Mark Fall Festival/All Souls Run

Thank You For Attending the HSA General Meeting: Thank you to all those who were able to attend the HSA General Meeting on Wednesday -- your continued support is appreciated! There was a drawing for Fall Festival food/game/raffle tickets at the meeting and we would like to congratulate the Lewis, Kipness, and Montemayor families who were the big winners! If you were unable to attend, the meeting minutes are available [online](#).

Auction Volunteers Needed: Want to help plan this fun night? Contact Eric Librea at eric.librea@sbcglobal.net, or Paola Colon at paolabcolon@icloud.com for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Reminders: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#). Also, volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.

Box Tops: Keep saving those Box Tops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure

Upcoming Volleyball Games:

5th Grade

*10/10, 9:00 AM vs. All Saints @ St. Mark

6th Grade D1

*10/10, 11:00 AM vs. MIS @ All Saints

*10/10, 12:00 PM vs. All Saints @ All Saints

6th Grade D2

*10/10, 12:00 PM vs. St. Philip @ St. Mark

*10/10, 1:00 PM

vs. St. Bernard @ St. Mark

7th Grade D1

*10/10, 6:00 PM vs. CKS @ St. Thomas

*10/10, 7:00 PM vs. St. Thomas @ St. Thomas

7th Grade D2

*10/10, 10:00 AM vs. St. Monica @ St. Mark

*10/10, 11:00 AM vs. St. Joseph @ St. Mark

8th Grade D1


*10/10, 9:00 AM vs. All Saints @ All Saints

*10/10, 10:00 AM vs. MIS @ All Saints

to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

To All Troop 285 Scouts, Past and Present:
The upcoming 50th anniversary celebration of Troop 285 will celebrate our troop's past, present and future. In recognition, a State Proclamation will be issued and read by State Senator Van Taylor. Merit badges and rank advancements will be recognized, and several scouts will earn their Eagle Scout ranks. We hope you'll join us for this very special occasion on October 10 at 5:30 PM in the Cafetorium.



Looking for
Former Scouts of
Troop 285 !

Help us celebrate the
50th Anniversary
of the Troop's inception this coming
October 10, 2015

The troop is seeking the names, emails and
locations of former Scout masters, assistant
Scout masters, and scouts from Troop 285

Please contact Sylvia Garcia-Meier at:
50th@t285.us

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!

**Saturday, October 31:
Two great events, same great day ...**

Upcoming Cross Country Meet:

*10/10 @ Norbuck, Dallas

JV Girls - 7:30 AM
JV Boys - 7:45 AM
Varsity Girls - 8:00 AM
Varsity Boys - 8:15 AM

For complete game/meet schedules, [click here](#).



**SIGN-UP NOW FOR
NOVEMBER WATCH
D.O.G.S. DAYS**



Dads: [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of November. Sign-ups are due October 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.



St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with [Holy Trinity Seminary](#) and takes great pride in supporting our future priests. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:



**All Souls 1K/5K Run,
Saturday, October 31:**

The All Souls Run is a great way for you to take part in a wonderful community event which honors our loved ones who have passed away, and raises funds for the St. Mark Catholic School Athletic Department!

Last year's proceeds went to new volleyball and basketball uniforms, baseball equipment, resurfacing of gym flooring, and several other items that the school's athletic department needed.

Register: Registration is now open. Anyone can register, so help spread the word! **Find our registration table next to the Lions Den Spirit Store in the Cafeteria every Friday morning between now and race day. Or, simply visit www.allsoulsrun.com.**

Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to man the water station, cheer on runners, marshal the route, and help participants register. Adult volunteers over the age of 18 must be [safe-environment](#) trained.

All volunteers who register on or before 10/15/15 will get a free t-shirt! Students who register to run, or register to volunteer, will get a free dress day!

Service hours are available.

There will be a mandatory volunteer meeting on 10/28/15 (details to follow).

***Join Us for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM:**

October - 11th, & 25th
November - 1st, & 15th
January - 24th, 31st
February - 7th, 14th, 28th
April - 3rd, 17th, 24th

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions about the Public Masses? Call or text Agnes Denvir, VP of Vocations, President-Elect Serra Club of North Central Dallas. Cell: 214-607-2391, agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

FRENCH MASSES AT CISTERCIAN

Mrs. Denvir extends an invitation to St. Mark French students, and any students/families who are interested, to attend the French Masses at Cistercian. There is an opportunity to do the readings, and to sample some French snacks at the end of every Mass. Masses take place at Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey in Irving every 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM. Upcoming dates: October 18, November 22, December 20,

Questions? Please feel free to email or call Tiffany Duncan at tlduncan34@yahoo.com, or at 214-728-0588.



Parish Fall Festival, Saturday, October 31, 7:00 AM-10:00 PM:

Come and enjoy a SAFE and FUN Halloween at St. Mark! The events include something for everyone:

- 8:00 AM - All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Fun Run
- 3v3 Basketball Tournament
- Live Entertainment on 2 stages
- 5:30-7:30 PM - Trunk or Treat
- Raffle (\$2500, \$1000, \$500, Trek Bike)
- Door Prizes
- Obstacle Course, Water Balloon Launch
- Vertical Rush Slide, Hamster Ball Course
- Book Sale & Craft Show
- Food (Burgers, Brats, Fajitas, Tamales, & more)
- Games
- Treasure Trove

Volunteer: Want to volunteer at the Fall Festival? [Click here](#). Remember, volunteers over the age of 18 must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared. Service hours are available.

We are in need of help on the day of the festival to oversee the Volunteer Sign-In from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and also need someone to be in charge of the volunteers to make sure things are running smoothly and that gaps are filled. Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#) if you can help.

January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, and May 15.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is collecting bottle caps. She needs blue, green, yellow, orange, red, black and clear. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

STEM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ST. MARK

4th Grade Charts Plant Growth: Our 4th grade students are growing plants in the classroom. By charting plant growth, they will be able to create a line graph in the Computer Applications lab.

(photo removed)

6th Grade Prezi Presentations: Recently, our 6th grade classes created a Prezi presentation on the iPad to define and provide examples of fiction and nonfiction literature. They then used the Prezi to teach other groups about the elements of fiction or nonfiction.

(photo removed)

Raffle Ticket Sales: Please [click here](#) if you can help sell tickets after Masses in October.

Parents: Did you know there could be \$2,500 in your Back-To-School night envelope? Go find it...the St. Mark Parish Fall Festival raffle prizes this year are three Visa gifts cards valued at \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Your chances to win are in those Back-To-School envelopes for just \$5 each!

Please return the money and ticket stubs in an envelope marked "Festival" to the school. If you need more to sell, please contact Ann Rossigno at 972-533-5355, or ask Mrs. O'Connor at the front office.

Craft Fair Registration: [Click here](#): Craft Fair Registration Form

3v3 Basketball Tournament Registration: [Click here](#): 3v3 Basketball Registration Form

The basketball tournament is open to boys and girls from 5th-8th grade. Please contact [Eric Librea](#) if your son or daughter is interested in playing in the tournament. Space is limited -- only four teams per division.

Plan to Donate to the Fall Festival: See details about the school's donation drive in the "All School Service Project" section at right.

Need more details? Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#), [click here](#) for the festival website, or follow the [Parish Fall Festival](#) on Facebook!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Homecoming Pep Rally: St. Mark spirit was everywhere as students, faculty, staff and parents gathered yesterday in the Bacot Gym to pump up our football players for their upcoming Homecoming games, and to



LION PRIDE!

Students Named to 4th-6th

Grade Duke TIP: We are proud to announce that 42% of our 4th-6th graders qualified for Duke University's 4th-6th Grade Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) based on last year's standardized testing. Duke TIP is a global leader in identifying academically gifted students and providing them with opportunities to support their development. Students qualify by scoring at or above the 95th percentile on any one accepted subtest or total battery/composite on standardized testing. Congratulations to:

4th Grade: Samuel C., Gia E., Eliana G., Will I., Lindsay K., Peter K., Gabby L., Gabriela M., Madelin M., Heather M., Brennan M., Sofia M., Nataly M., Lana N., Ben P., Sebastian R., Nathan S., Max Z.

5th Grade: Drew A., Jonas A., Jacob A., Caroline B., Genevieve B., Jessie C., Biya C., Bernadette C., Alejandro D., Luke G., Austin G., Evan J., Jason L., George L., Kyle M., Isabel R., Alex R., Morgan

celebrate all of our fall athletes. Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Volleyball, Tennis and our Spring DPL Champion JV Softball players were recognized. Thanks to our JV, Varsity and Junior Cheerleaders, as well as our Lion Mascot, who did a great job inspiring the crowd! Let's go, Lions!!



Fire Prevention Week: In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the Plano Fire Department paid a visit to our preschool students this week. Luckily, it was just to teach them about fire safety! The firefighters also showed students all of the equipment on their fire truck.



Our TK-3 students got in on the act as well. On Thursday, the Plano Fire Clowns came to St. Mark and taught students about ways they can prevent fires and stay safe. Ask your child about the "smoke rings" floating in the air, and if he/she learned these lessons:

1. Matches and lighters are tools, not toys.
2. If your clothes catch on fire, you stop, drop, cover, and roll.
3. You should test your smoke alarms once per month, and change the batteries once per year.

S., Paul S., Daniella S., Camille S., Sawyer S., Kayla T., Louis T., Theresa T.

6th Grade:

Abby A., Lauren D., Allison G., Jordan H., Luke H., Kendell K., Diego L., Becca L., Anupa M., Alexandra M., Greyson P., Jack P., Jake R., Andrew S., Peyton S., Ann T., Cristian T., Tiffany T., Thomas W.

Runners Advance to City

Meet: Congratulations to the following Cross Country runners who have advanced to the DPL City Meet:

JV Girls: Ava F., Riley G., Marielma G., Kate K., Kayla T.

JV Boys: Justin B., Greyson P., Joshua T.

Varsity Boys: Travis A., Jake C., Joseph F., Sean J., Nicholas M., Emilio R.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Alum Art Installation: A few months ago, we told you that **Nick M.** (St. Mark Class of 2005) was working on a "sunflower" public art installation for a pocket park in Wichita, Kansas. We are pleased to report that the piece has been completed and officially installed in the park, which is located in



French Elective: The middle school French elective has had tons of fun learning French while enjoying some French culture. The students learned how to make a delicious, yet simple Gâteau au yaourt, and enjoyed tasting it. They had the opportunity to Skype Mrs. Denvir's parents in the south of France to introduce themselves in French with their new French names. They told Madame Louis how much they enjoyed trying to write French-style with Mrs. Denvir's fountain pen, so she surprised the students by sending a package from France containing a fountain pen for each one of them! This week, they enjoyed discussing colors in French, and selecting fabric from Provence to make homemade lavender sachets ! Nous aimons le français !

(photos removed)

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the downtown section of the city. It is huge, and is made of approximately 3,600 pounds of steel. The installation has already garnered much attention from the public. [Click here](#) to see a video that shows what people experience when viewing Nick's installation.

(photo removed)

JPII Homecoming Court: Congratulations to **Rafael D. '12**, who was voted John Paul II High School's Homecoming King, and **Caroline G. '14**, who was voted Sophomore Duchess!

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