



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**December 4, 2015**

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At St. Mark, We Serve.  
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark



**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!



## LION PRIDE!

### REMINDERS

#### TODAY, Friday, December 4:

- HSA Family Movie Night
- Scrip Gift Card Sales End (details below)

#### Sunday, December 6:

- 3:00 PM, McGivney Hall, St. Mark Parish Center: Learn To Pray As A Family (details below)

#### Monday, December 7:

- St. Mark Spirit Day/Holiday Dress Day (details below)

- Middle School Popcorn Sale - 12/7-10 (details below)

#### Tuesday, December 8:

- 8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass- Feast of the Immaculate Conception. All are welcome.

#### Wednesday, December 9:

- Reconciliation for Grades 2-8

#### Friday, December 11:

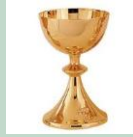
- Auction Basket Donation Collection in all Morning Carpool Lines

- 8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 2nd grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

### MONDAY IS SPIRIT DAY & HOLIDAY DRESS DAY!

Monday, December 7 is St. Mark **Spirit Day** or **Holiday Dress Day!** Students have the

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



### Vocations

**Chalice:** 5th 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.



### Generosity:

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 "Generosity" 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.**

**December Project:** St. Mark Angel Tree

Each grade level will collect money that will go towards the purchase of gifts for selected Angel Tree families. **Emphasis should be placed on the students earning the money they donate.** More details will be provided by your child's teacher. Students should turn in their money to their Religion teacher.

choice of wearing a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing (this includes any shirt with the St. Mark name, including Field Day shirts), OR a Christmas shirt or sweater. These may be worn with jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, or the school pants. Students may wear any closed shoe. (Sweatpants, leggings, shorts, caps/accessories, and solid green/gold shirts without the St. Mark name are not permitted.) Apparel must be free of inappropriate slogans and graphics.

Please follow the dress policy as written. No exceptions. For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the homepage of our [website](#).

### WE ARE SEEKING PARENT EXPERTISE FOR ELECTIVES

Our middle school students enjoy an educational and dynamic elective program where they are able to choose two 18-week and four 9-week electives during the school year. Topics are varied and ever-changing. **It is our intention to expand the current elective program by bringing in parent volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with our students.**

Currently, we are looking for parents who are interested in teaching second semester 18-week electives, and 3rd or 4th quarter 9-week electives. The dates are:

#### **18-week elective held T/Th:**

1/19/16 - 6/2/16

#### **9-week elective held M/W/F:**

3rd quarter - 1/19/16 - 3/24/16

4th quarter - 3/28/16 - 6/2/16

**Catholic Social Teaching:** Option for the poor and vulnerable

**Who Benefits?** Social Outreach

**Due Date:** December 11, 2015



**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 Spirit Days, which are held on the first Monday of each month!

### WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIONS DEN?



**Ladies' Performance Shorts - \$18**  
Perfect for those upcoming basketball team practices!  
Available in youth & adult sizes.

Elective class time is 2:40-3:20 PM.

Parent volunteers can teach an elective by themselves, or work with another parent who shares the same hobby, skill or profession.

If you are interested, simply submit a brief description of your elective idea to Ana Pott at [anapott3@yahoo.com](mailto:anapott3@yahoo.com) by Friday, December 11.

We look forward to hearing from our talented parents!

#### FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Reminder: As temperatures are dropping, please ensure that your student is wearing a jacket and appropriate attire for the colder weather. Recess/PE will continue to be held outside until temperatures drop below 32 degrees.

#### GRAY UNIFORM PANTS - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We've had several questions about the new gray uniform pants and shorts that take effect in August of 2016, so we'd like to address them in advance. Academic Outfitters will begin carrying the official gray uniform pants and shorts on June 1, 2016. They will not be available for purchase through them until that date. Academic Outfitters is in the process of putting together a display for our school lobby that will include sample pants. We hope to have it ready soon for your reference. As with all of our uniform pieces, St. Mark will require that all uniform pants and shorts match this sample in both style and color. We strongly discourage families from purchasing generic

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MID-TERM EXAM SCHEDULE

Mid-term exams for middle school students, grades 6-8, will take place from December 14-17 as follows:

\*Monday, 12/14 - Science & English

\*Tuesday, 12/15 - Math & Literature

\*Wednesday, 12/16 - Religion & Social Studies

\*Thursday, 12/17 - Spanish

#### APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? The 2016-17 application for new students is now available online at [www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net).

#### PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK UPDATE

An update reflecting a Diocesan policy change to expulsion procedures has been made to the Parent Student Handbook. The current version of the handbook is always accessible on our school website.

#### RECYCLE THOSE DRINK POUCHES

Remind your students to recycle their beverage pouches (Capri Sun, Honest Kids, etc.) during lunch. They simply need to

gray pants/shorts now, as you run the risk of them not meeting our uniform standards. There are many variations of pant styles and shades of the gray color available on the market, but they do not all present the uniformity that is required. We hope this information will assist you with your purchase decisions.

### ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS DECEMBER SALE & GREEN PANT SALE

Academic Outfitters is currently holding their annual December sale through December 31. [Click here](#) for details. Stock up now on items your children are growing out of.

In addition, Academic Outfitters is now offering the green uniform pants at 20% off.

### REQUESTING STUDENT ORNAMENTS FOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE

This year, we would love to decorate our school Christmas tree with ornaments made by our students. If your child would like to contribute an ornament, please have him/her bring it to school anytime next week and place it directly on our school Christmas tree located in the Cafeteria.

### DECEMBER 18 EARLY DISMISSAL/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

On Friday, December 18, students will be released early at 12:00 PM. The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM. Please make arrangements for timely pick up. Classroom Christmas parties will be held that morning and students will be served a pizza lunch. There is no need to send a lunch with After School Program

remove the straws and place the empty drink pouches in the special collection bin located at the front of the Cafeteria. Not only do we keep these pouches out of landfills which is good for the environment, but the school earns money for recycling them. **Since its inception, St. Mark's drink pouch recycling program has recycled 58,041 pouches and has received \$1,157.05 for doing so!**

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

**\*DPL Swim Meet Date Set; Registration Open:** The 2016 DPL Swim Meet will take place on Friday, February 5 at North Lake Community College located on MacArthur Boulevard in Irving.

Online registration is now open, and payments will be accepted at this time.

Please visit the Swimming page on the school website and review the prerequisites for team registration. DPL Sports Physical Forms must be submitted to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director.



DPL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

students unless they would like something in addition to the pizza.

### CHRISTMAS VACATION REMINDER

A reminder as the Christmas holidays approach: If you are planning a family vacation that extends outside the Christmas break, please notify the school by emailing [rene.oconnor@stmcs.net](mailto:rene.oconnor@stmcs.net).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL POPCORN SALE

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week to raise money to cover the cost of printing the yearbook. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time on Monday, December 7-Thursday, December 10. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, Salsa, or **a special Vanilla flavor/Christmas-colored popcorn available in December only**. Order extra bags for gifts, holiday guests, or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on December 14. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 12/7-10. Please help support the yearbook and enjoy a tasty treat!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ELIZABETHAN PLAY CANCELED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the middle school production of "An Entertainment For Elizabeth: The Lady of May" scheduled for December 10 has been canceled until further notice.

**Attention Student-Athletes:** The Dallas Parochial League offers an annual scholarship opportunity for 6th-8th grade student-athletes. Scholarship recipients receive \$500 towards the cost of Catholic school tuition for the following year. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2015. [Click here](#) for more information and the application.

### "LEARN TO PRAY AS A FAMILY" ASSEMBLY

There are still a few spaces available at the "Learn To Pray As A Family" workshop that will be presented by the Nashville Dominicans on Sunday, December 6 from 3:00-4:15 PM in McGivney Hall in the St. Mark Parish Center. This workshop is for adults only. Free babysitting will be provided so that parents can attend. Topics of discussion will include obstacles to family prayer, drawing your family together through prayer, praying with your spouse, and more. If you haven't yet sent in your RSVP, you still have time to email [stacy.oliver@stmcs.net](mailto:stacy.oliver@stmcs.net). You can also email her with any questions you might have. [Click here](#) for more information.

### MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is still in need of **YELLOW** bottle caps only. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once,





## JANUARY WATCH D.O.G.S. DAYS NOW AVAILABLE

Calling All "Dads of Great Students": [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of January, or for more information about our Watch D.O.G.S. program. Sign-ups are due December 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

## 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](#). 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.

If you are unsure about your donation status, please contact Nadya Collard in the parish office no later than **December 23**, as she will be out of the office from December 24-January 4. You can reach her at 972-423-5600, x 258 or [ncollard@stmarkplano.org](mailto:ncollard@stmarkplano.org). Contributions made during Christmas week should be posted to 2015 contribution statements, as long as they are received by December 31.

## END-OF-YEAR GIVING

he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!



## HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

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:

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

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](mailto:agnes.denvir@stmcs.net) or [agnesdenvir@gmail.com](mailto: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

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. Some of the companies that provide corporate matching include 3M, AIG, Abbott, BP Solar, Bank of America, Boeing, Chevron, Cisco, Conoco Phillips, Deloitte, GM, Gates Foundation, Honeywell, Intel, Liberty Agency, Lockheed Martin, Merck, Met Life, Microsoft, P&G, PepsiCo, Raytheon, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, Verizon, and Walmart.

- 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, [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, Fine Arts), please [click here](#). Enter the amount under "Miscellaneous," and specify the program in the "comments" section.



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

### STEM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ST. MARK

**TK Learns About Shapes:** Our Transitional Kindergarten class recently learned about shapes. The lesson was reinforced during a STEM lesson where they were challenged to build shapes using marshmallows and toothpicks.

(photo removed)

### DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!

**King of the Nations Nativity Concert:** Come enjoy a celebration of Jesus' birth with music and song at the "King of the Nations" Nativity Concert. Our own Chelsea A. will be performing. For a trailer of the concert and more information about tickets, please [click here](#). Show dates are December 22 at the Courtyard Theater in Plano, and December 4 at the McKinney Performing Arts Center.



**LION PRIDE!**



**You are cordially invited to attend the  
St. Mark Catholic School  
29th Annual Dinner & Auction!**

**When:** February 6, 2016

**Where:** Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town  
Center in Plano

**Tickets:**

\* \$65 if purchased by 12/14/15

\* \$75 if purchased from 12/15/15 until sell  
out

Click here to buy tickets:

[www.stmcs.net/auction](http://www.stmcs.net/auction)

**DON'T FORGET TO DONATE TO YOUR  
CLASS BASKET** It is a tradition that each  
class donates a themed gift basket to be  
auctioned at the event. We ask that each  
family give one item, gift card or cash  
donation towards their class basket. [Click  
here](#) for your class basket theme. Collection  
boxes have been placed in each classroom.  
For middle school students, there is  
a collection box located in the Library.  
**Volunteers will also be available to collect  
donations in the morning drop-off  
carpool lines on Friday, December  
11.** Thank you for your generosity!

**SAVE THE DATE** for our Pre-Event Mixers!  
These events will be hosted by our own St.  
Mark Catholic School families, and will be a  
great way to meet new friends and catch up  
with old friends. Watch for email invitations  
and information in your child's school  
folder.

PK-TK: December 13

K-2: January 8

3-5: December 5

**Y.M.C.A. Youth & Government:**

The following St. Mark students  
recently attended and competed  
at the YMCA Youth &  
Government District Conference  
at Lakeview Centennial High  
School: C.J. W., Angela M.,  
Audrey P., Katie S., Sarah  
H., Breigh P., Thomas W., Gio P.  
and Alonso T. Each student wrote,  
presented, and debated a  
legislative bill. The students are  
eligible to attend and compete at  
the State Conference held in  
Austin this spring. St. Mark  
was represented well with two  
chair and clerk teams comprised  
of Sarah H. and Audrey P. and Gio  
P. and Thomas W.  
Congratulations to Breigh P. who  
was also awarded Distinguished  
Delegate. The YMCA Youth &  
Government program teaches  
young people the democratic  
process while fostering the  
importance of leadership and civic  
duty. It is made available to  
our middle school  
students through our elective  
program.

(photos removed)

**Soccer Success:** Several of our  
2nd grade girls play on the  
Thundercats soccer team through  
Plano Sports Authority. The  
team finished second with a 6-1-1  
record in the Top PSA Fall Soccer  
Recreation division. Sophia G. led  
the team in scoring with 10  
goals. Also on the team are Diya

6-8: December 11



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING HSA DATES

**TODAY, Friday, December 4:** Deadline to Order Scrip Gift Cards

**Tuesday, December 15, 4:30 PM, Parish Center Great Room:** Teacher/Staff Christmas Party

**Friday, December 18:** Classroom Christmas Parties



### SCRIP GIFT CARD ORDERS:

The deadline to order Scrip Gift Cards is today, Friday, December 4. For more information, refer to the form sent home with students two weeks ago, or [click here](#).



### TEACHER/STAFF CHRISTMAS

**DINNER:** The annual Teacher and Staff Christmas Dinner is coming up on Tuesday, December 15 at 4:30 PM. This event, hosted by Father Cliff and 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.

C., Leah D., Audrey M., Sneha M., and Addison V. Way to go, girls!

### AT ST. MARK, WE SERVE.

**Students Make Cards For Elderly:** Our students made cards for the elderly who attended a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Catholic Charities of Dallas and Deacons/families. Click here to read [Bishop Farrell's tweet about it](#). He featured one of the cards from St. Mark.



**PK-3 Donates Canned Food:** To reinforce the November "Virtue of the Month," Stewardship, our PreK-3 students took their canned food donations benefiting the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry to the church. They learned firsthand what it means to give during the Thanksgiving season.

(photo removed)

### SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

**Advent:** Advent is upon us. As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, our students are busy creating symbols of the season. Kindergarten created

Thank you for helping to make this year's dinner an extra special evening for our wonderful St. Mark teachers and staff.

**CLASSROOM CHRISTMAS PARTIES:**

Classroom Christmas parties will be held on Friday, December 18 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Pizza will be provided to all students during the parties. Please remember that this is an early dismissal day for students.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Paper-Pulling/Classroom Reading Coordinator (1st & 2nd Grades):** HSA is looking for a Chairperson to organize Paper-Pulling/Classroom Reading for our 1st and 2nd grade teachers. Please contact Erica Rivera at [ebakerhrw@yahoo.com](mailto:ebakerhrw@yahoo.com) if you are interested and/or have questions.

**Library Helpers Needed:** The following classes are in need of a few more Library volunteers: Mrs. Young- TK (Tuesdays 9:00-9:30), Mrs. Thompson- K (Mondays 1:45-2:15), Mrs. Brooks- Grade 2 (Wednesdays 12:30-1:00), Mrs. Eisele- Grade 2 (Tuesdays 12:30-1:00), Mrs. McCormick- Grade 3 (Wednesdays 9:00-9:30), and Mrs. Mercado- Grade 4 (Mondays 10:15-10:45). Please contact Femina Pereira at [pfemina@gmail.com](mailto:pfemina@gmail.com) if you are available or have questions. The number of volunteers per class determines how often each volunteer is scheduled to help.



**Auction Volunteers Needed:** Want to help plan this fun night? Contact Eric

Librea at [eric.librea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eric.librea@sbcglobal.net), or Paola Colon at [paolabcolon@icloud.com](mailto:paolabcolon@icloud.com) for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Advent wreaths using tracings of their own handprints (as well as some fun renditions of St. Nick that they made in Art class while studying the concept of movement in art). 6th grade decorated Advent wreaths and wrote down things they will pray for and carry out during the Christmas season.



**Join Our Mailing List**

**Forward To A Friend**

## **REMINDERS**

**Attention Volunteers:** 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:** Please continue to collect Box Tops and don't forget to put the grade level on the package before turning it in to Mrs. O'Connor.

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075  
[www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net) | (972) 578-0610