



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

September 11, 2015

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REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 14:

- St. Mark Spirit Day! See details below.
- Virtus Lessons Begin

Tuesday, September 15, 3:30-4:30 PM:

Respect Life Club Meeting - Respect for Masculinity/Femininity



**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, and has been nominated to apply for a rare third award in 2015. This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Thursday, September 17: North Texas Giving Day -- Get Up and Give to St. Mark! See details below.

Friday, September 18:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 6th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-1:00 PM, The Courses at Watters Creek: Annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament - see details below.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Let's give a warm St. Mark welcome to the new student who joined us this week ...

-Renil G. 5th grade Ms. Pennartz

SAVE THE DATE FOR NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY - 9/17/15!



Next Thursday, 9/17, from 6:00 AM - MIDNIGHT, you have a chance to get up and give to St. Mark Catholic School, AND have a percentage of your donation MATCHED by the Communities Foundation of Texas.

Anyone can give \$25 or more by simply logging on to our donation page on 9/17:
<http://www.northtexasgivingday.org/#npo/st->

Follow us and stay connected!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations Chalice

6th 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.



Faith: 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 "Faith" 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.**

[mark-catholic-school](#) -- parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, coworkers. A percentage of each \$25 donation receives matching funds.

As a special incentive this year, we'll be holding raffle drawings among our donors the day after the event for some fun prizes including St. Mark spirit gear, auction tickets, carnival tickets, and more.

Planning to give \$100? Give four \$25 donations instead. The school will receive more matching funds, and you'll receive more chances to win in our raffle drawings!

Proceeds benefit ALL St. Mark students through our Gap Fund, which helps bridge the gap between the amount of tuition each family pays, and the actual cost to educate each student. For the 2015-16 school year, this amount is \$1,280 per student.

We'll have a link on our [homepage](#), and will be keeping you up-to-date on our progress all day long, so be sure to check [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest. In the meantime, for additional details, please [click here](#). For FAQ, [click here](#).

FALL ENRICHMENT CLUB REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Register now for Fall Enrichment Clubs! Is your student interested in Engineering, Art, Music, Speech, Book Making, or just taking time to use our computer labs for homework? Our first session of Enrichment Clubs includes a great selection of activities for your students. There is NO CHARGE for these clubs, and all are facilitated by faculty members. An email was sent to all school families on Thursday with details. Click below for the list of available clubs

September Project: Appreciation for our Armed Forces

Students will make cards for soldiers. OPTIONAL: They may also donate items for soldiers from the list below.

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

Who Benefits? Wounded Warriors & St. Michael Military Support Group

Due Date: September 30, 2015

Link: [Optional Military 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!](#)

and the permission form. The deadline to register is September 22.

[Fall Enrichment Club Listing](#)

[Fall Enrichment Club Permission Form](#)

"MATH COUNTS" OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Attention All Middle Schoolers: St. Mark is proud to continue offering the **Math Counts** program to our students in grades 6-8. Chris Bender, Class of 2013 and current junior at Cistercian Preparatory School, administers this program. It provides an opportunity for students to delve into unique, interesting and complex extracurricular mathematics. Students attend one meeting each week at the school (on a weekend) to cover topics ranging from introductory high school geometry to the characteristics of mathematical proof. A heavy emphasis is placed upon the application of simple concepts to challenging problems. Students apply their skills to four nationally-ranked competitions that take place throughout the school year.

Please note: Math Counts was shown on the Fall Enrichment Club list that was sent to parents on Thursday. That list indicated that a placement test had already been administered. This has changed. **ANY interested 6th-8th grade student** is eligible to participate. Placement testing will be completed at a club meeting. Also, the meeting day is subject to change. More details about meeting dates/times are forthcoming, but they will fall on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

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!

ST. MARK SPIRIT DAY IS COMING UP!

The first St. Mark Spirit Day will take place on Monday, September 14. **Please note the dress code clarifications in bold below.**

On the first Monday of each month that we are in school, students will be allowed to wear jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, school pants, or school shorts * with a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing (**this includes any shirt with the St. Mark name, including Field Day shirts**). **Students may wear any closed shoe. (Sweatpants, leggings, non-uniform shorts, caps/accessories, and solid green/gold shirts without the St. Mark name are not permitted.) 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.

*School uniform shorts may be worn during the first and last grading periods only.

Registration for Math Counts can be completed through the Fall Enrichment Club Permission Form below.

[Fall Enrichment Club Permission Form](#)

ANNOUNCING ST. MARK CAREER DAY

Our Students Want to Learn About Your Career! We invite parents of students in grades 1-4 to come into our classrooms and talk to our students about their careers during the week of September 28 - October 2. Three timeslots lasting 10 minutes each are available each day that week. [Click here](#) to sign-up.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Vision/Hearing Screenings: On Monday (9/14) the school nurse will begin conducting our annual vision/hearing screenings at school on all students 4 years of age and older. If your child has corrective lenses, please ensure that they wear them to school for the next couple of weeks.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone who attended the Room Parent and Committee Chair meetings this week. Packets were sent home with those children whose parents were unable to attend.

Volunteer Opportunity: We are still in need of one more committee chair for **Scrip Cards**. Please contact ashleyternan@gmail.com for more information.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***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:

Junior Varsity

*9/13, 12:00 PM @ JP11 - St. Mark JV vs. St. Rita

Varsity

*9/13, 2:00 PM @ JP11 - St. Mark Varsity vs. MIS

Upcoming Volleyball Games:

5th Grade

*9/12, 12:00 PM @ St. Joseph - St. Mark 5th grade vs. CKS

*9/12, 1:00 PM @ St. Joseph - St. Mark 5th grade vs. St. Joseph

6th Grade D1

*9/12, 9:00 AM @ POP - St. Mark 6th D1 vs. POP

Library Helpers Needed: The following teachers still need library helpers:

- Mrs. Young: Tuesdays - 9:00-9:30 AM
- Mrs. Brooks: Wednesdays - 12:30-1:00 PM
- Mrs. Mercado: Mondays - 10:15-10:45 AM

If you can help, please contact ebakerhrw@yahoo.com.

For more information on open positions and volunteer opportunities, please [click here](#).

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.

Please Pay Your HSA Dues: Please pay your HSA dues (\$25) by September 11. You can pay [online](#) directly, or you can print a copy of the [HSA dues form](#) and return it to the school office with your payment. Please remember that it's your dues that help to fund all of the great events and activities that HSA sponsors for our students each year. Those who pay their dues will also receive a copy of the school directory, and the option to volunteer at Field Day.

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September to make sure all new families are included.

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.

*9/12, 10:00 AM @ POP - St. Mark 6th D1 vs. St. Monica

6th Grade D2

*9/12, 1:00 PM @ St. Elizabeth - St. Mark 6th D2 vs. Holy Trinity

7th Grade D1

*9/12, 1:00 PM @ St. Rita - St. Mark 7th D1 vs. St. Rita

*9/12, 2:00 PM @ St. Rita - St. Mark 7th D1 vs. POP

7th Grade D2

*9/12, 1:00 PM @ St. Bernard - St. Mark 7th D2 vs. St. Bernard

8th Grade D1

*9/12, 9:00 AM @ St. Mark - St. Mark 8th D1 vs. POP

*9/12, 12:00 PM @ St. Mark - St. Mark 8th D1 vs. St. Rita

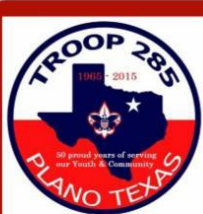
For complete game schedules, [click here](#).



**RESPECT LIFE CLUB
ENROLLMENT CONTINUES**

Box Tops: Keep saving those Box Tops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY



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!



Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament - Friday, September 18, The Courses at Watters Creek, Allen: Get your foursomes together and join us for the annual golf tournament, hosted by our very own St.



Register

Now for the St. Mark Respect Life Club: This is an after-school opportunity for students in grades 1-8 to grow in their appreciation of the dignity of all human life. It is unique to St. Mark Catholic School. Monthly meetings include fun and educational activities. We invite you to learn more and to register for the 2015-16 "Respect Life Club" by [clicking here](#).



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:

Welcome Dinner: Purchase your tickets now for the Holy Trinity "[Seminarian Welcome Dinner](#)" which introduces the new seminarians to the Catholic community. This year's dinner takes place

Mark alumni! Anyone can participate: family, friends, co-workers. **You'll be treated to a round of golf, complimentary Bahama Bucks snow cones and St. Mark gear on the course, dinner, and some great prizes including a Classic BMW for the weekend and a \$100 restaurant gift card!**

PROCEEDS GO TO THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL GYM & PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT BENEFITING ALL STUDENTS.

The registration deadline has been extended to September 17.

[Click here](#) for more information and the online registration form.



hikeforlife

Come join the St. Mark Respect Life Club at the "Hike for Life" on Saturday, September 26, 8:00 AM, at John Paul II High School. Hike for Life is Texas' oldest pro-life event. It is a pro-life walk held once a year in various locations around Texas that raises money for area Crisis Pregnancy Centers and raises awareness of the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. Your involvement in the Hike will help area centers to continue their lifesaving mission. It is an event for the whole family with contests and prizes, music and hot dogs. For more information, click [here](#). To sign up for the "St. Mark Catholic School Respect Life Club" team, click [here](#). Under "Teams," click "Show All" and "Join" next to our team name. Service hours are available for participants.

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

September 19 at 5:00 PM at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Tickets are available for purchase, and we encourage anyone and everyone to attend. For reservations and sponsorship information, [click here](#), contact agnes.denvir@stmcs.net, or call (972) 438-2212.

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

September - 13th
October - 4th, 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 Welcome Dinner or 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.



**WATCH
D.O.G.S. NOW ENROLLING
DADS FOR OCTOBER-MAY**



**Parish Fall Festival, Saturday,
October 31:**

Volunteer at the Festival: 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.

Raffle Ticket Sales: Please look for your Fall Festival raffle tickets in your "Back to School Night" packet. If you would like to sell extra tickets, please notify Raffle Coordinator Ann Rossigno at 972-533-5355.

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: The school is organizing a donation drive for October. More details will follow soon.

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

We are now enrolling Dads for WATCH D.O.G.S. days at school, and are offering half days for dads who cannot commit to full days. **The deadline to register for October is September 20.** Our website has been updated for the 2015-16 school year, so visit today to learn more at www.stmarkwatchdogs.com.

**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**

Robotics Elective Takes on Timed Marshmallow Challenge: Seven teams from the Robotics elective participated in the Marshmallow Challenge. The goal was to build the tallest free standing tower in 20 minutes with spaghetti, tape, and a marshmallow. The tallest standing tower at 10.75 inches tall was built by Kevin N., Michael D., and Daniel B. Congratulations!



All Souls 1K/5K Run,

Saturday, October 31: Registration is now open for our second annual 1K/5K run. Anyone can register, so help spread the word!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT.

[Click here](#) to sign-up for the run or to become an event sponsor. Volunteers are needed, and no job is too small. Contact [Tiffany Duncan](#) if you can help. Service hours are available.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL JESUIT GAME TONIGHT

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS!
JESUIT DALLAS RANGERS vs. STRAKE JESUIT CRUSADERS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7PM - POSTELL STADIUM

- BE IN YOUR SEATS BY EARLY FOR PRE-GAME FESTIVITIES (NO LATER THAN 6:40 PM)
- CHEER ON THE REAL HEROES OF OUR COMMUNITY...AREA POLICE OFFICERS & FIREFIGHTERS
- HELP HONOR 5 NEW YORK CITY FIREMAN WHO WERE AT GROUND ZERO ON 9/11
- OUR HONORARY CAPTAINS, HANDELING THE PRE-GAME COIN TOSS, WILL BE ALUMNI FIREFIGHTERS DANNY CIVELLO '99 & ANTHONY MUNGIOLI '03
- IT'S ALSO UA APPRECIATION NIGHT, WITH \$3 TICKETS FOR ALL UA STUDENTS WITH I.D.
- PRE-GAME TAILGATE WITH BBQ, BURGERS, BRATS, SNOW CONES & ICE CREAM

FOLLOW: @JESUITDALLASFB CLICK: WWW.JESUITRANGERS.ORG LISTEN LIVE: KHYI 95.3 THE RANGE

JOHN PAUL II "CARDINAL BELLES" CLINIC

Attention Girls 5-14 Years Old: The JP II Cardinal Belles drill team is offering a "Junior Belle Clinic" on Saturday, September 26 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Learn dance and kick technique, and have the opportunity to perform with the Belles at the JP II homecoming game on October 2 at 7:30 PM. For more information, [click here](#).

(photo removed)

7th Grade Works With 1st Grade: Our 7th grade students assisted our 1st grade students with a noun picture collage assignment this week using our school iPads.

(photo removed)

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Another Random Act of Kindness: We love seeing our monthly virtues in action, among both students and parents! Special thanks to the Wolfson family who treated some teachers to bundt cakes this week. What a wonderful surprise!