



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

January 15, 2016

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REMINDERS

Saturday, January 16:
-March for Life (details below)

Monday, January 18:



**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!

-Martin Luther King Day; No School

Tuesday, January 19:

-Free Dress Day Benefitting Tornado Victims (details below)

-Third quarter begins

Wednesday, January 20:

-Teacher Luncheon hosted by TK, K, 6th Grade

Thursday, January 21:

-Report Cards Sent Home

Friday, January 22:

-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.

-Last day to order Preschool-5th grade yearbook (details below)

Sunday, January 24:

-9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym: Used Uniform Sale (details below)

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new student who joined us this week:

Kamilah C. K Thompson

FREE DRESS DAY, 1/19, BENEFITTING TORNADO VICTIMS

For a \$2.00 donation, students may enjoy a Free Dress Day on Tuesday, January 19. Proceeds will benefit the tornado victims in Rowlett. Please refer to page 25 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for Free Dress Day guidelines.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 2nd 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.



Gratitude:

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 "Gratitude" 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.**

Our students have also been making "happy" cards for students in the corresponding grade levels who attend the elementary school in the hardest hit area. They feel that their whole school is probably feeling sad as they drive through the ravaged neighborhood surrounding their school, and that they have fellow classmates who were directly hit by the storm. The funds we raise will be directed specifically to these impacted school families. This effort gives our students an opportunity to reach out and relate to another student their age.

Proceeds from this week's middle school popcorn sale will also go towards this effort.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Information regarding the upcoming 2016 Catholic Schools Week was sent to parents via email earlier this week. This information is also available [online](#). **Please be sure to carefully review the information and forms, as some changes have been made from past years.**

[Email to Parents](#)
[Family Day Lunch Invitation](#)
[Detailed Calendar of Events](#)
[International Tasting Faire Information](#)
[Laps for Leukemia Pledge Form](#)

Please Sign-Up to Help Maximize St. Mark's Visibility at Local Parish Masses & Open Houses:

January Project: Laps for Leukemia

St. Mark has consistently been a top fundraising school for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Last year, we raised \$17,000 and we hope to top that amount this year.

During Catholic Schools Week, students will walk laps during P.E. classes to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Pledge sheets will be distributed to students by P.E. coaches. Students can obtain pledges based on the number of laps they walk. (All students will walk laps, but pledges/donations are not mandatory.) A Pledge Sheet will be completed and returned to school by each student, along with any pledge money collected.

Online Donations - New for 2016:

Donations can also be made directly online by [clicking here](#), giving out of town family/friends a convenient way to donate. Online donations will be credited to St. Mark's total funds raised.

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person

Who Benefits? Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Due Date: Laps will be completed at school during the week of February 1. Pledge sheets and money are due to classroom teachers by February 19, 2016.

Links: [Pledge Sheet](#); [Online Donation Link](#)

In addition to the activities mentioned above, you and your children have the opportunity to help us get the word out about St. Mark during this special week by volunteering at a local parish Mass on January 30 or 31, and at our upcoming Open Houses on February 2 & 9. This is the single most important recruitment time of the year, and the time when we can maximize visibility of St. Mark within our Catholic community. Our families are our best representatives. We need all hands on deck! Please [click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius.

USED UNIFORM SALE

Does your child need some additional school uniform pieces to get through the remainder of the year? The Home & School Association will hold a Used Uniform Sale on Sunday, January 24 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. Volunteer and service hour opportunities are available. [Click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius. Do you have gently used uniforms to donate? Simply drop them off in the school office anytime. [Click here](#) for a flyer containing more information.

EXTRA POPCORN AVAILABLE

If you forgot to order popcorn from the middle school Yearbook elective this week, extra bags were ordered and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Please send \$2.00 per bag with your child next Tuesday, January 19.

REGISTER NOW FOR ENDOW

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women to help them understand their God-given dignity and respond to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence to transform every aspect of life and society. More information can be found



LIFETIME LIONS

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!

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.

Be sure to spread the word about our upcoming Open House events:

[here](#). St. Mark's new spring ENDOW study begins January 13. *Discover Your Dignity: A Woman's Journey through Life - Part II* is the second of a two-part series which invites women to ponder how the hectic reality of our life, with its obligations, home and work demands, and relationship issues, intersects with the Divine reality.

Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Smyth Pastoral Center and childcare is available upon request. [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Liz Quarles](#).

RESPECT LIFE CLUB: 2016 MARCH FOR LIFE



Your families are invited to participate in the Annual March for Life on January 16 at the KBH Convention Center in downtown Dallas. A complete schedule of events and more information can be found [here](#). This year, we will have complimentary bus transportation departing from and returning to St. Mark after the event if your family would prefer not to drive down alone.

The bus will depart at 12:00 PM from St. Mark and arrive at the convention center in time for the 1:00 PM Memorial Mass. We will then participate as a group in the short march to the Federal Building and stay for part of the rally. We plan to be back at St. Mark by 4:45 PM.

12:00 PM: Bus departs St. Mark

Tuesday, February 2
9:00-10:00 AM, Cafetorium

Tuesday, February 9
6:00-7:30 PM, Library

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Come out and cheer on your Lion basketball teams! This weekend's games:

5th grade girls Green vs.
St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 1/16,
9:00 AM

5th grade girls Gold vs. St.
Patrick @ St. Patrick, 1/16,
9:00 AM

5th grade boys Green vs.
St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 1/16,
11:00 AM & 1/17 vs. POP @
St. Mark, 12:00 PM

5th grade boys Gold vs. Good
Shepherd @ St. Mark, 1/16,
10:00 AM & 1/17 vs. St. Rita @
St. Rita, 12:00 PM

6th grade girls Green vs. All
Saints @ St. Mark, 1/16, 1:00
PM

6th grade girls Gold vs. Good
Shepherd @ St. Mark, 1/16,
12:00 PM

1:00 PM: Memorial Mass @ KBH Conv. Ctr.
2:30 PM: March and Rally
4:00 PM: Bus departs from KBH Conv. Ctr.
4:45 PM: Bus returns to St. Mark

This is not a field trip or school-sponsored event. A transportation waiver must be completed and either emailed to stmarkrlc@gmail.com, or returned to the school office prior to boarding the bus. Parents must accompany their students/children on the bus and throughout the event.

There are a limited number of seats on the bus so please RSVP to stmarkrlc@gmail.com if you plan to attend and include how many seats you will need.

Service hours are available for middle school students who participate in this event. RLC members are encouraged to wear their yellow club shirts for the March to help identify our group. Non-members are welcome to wear other St. Mark shirts or yellow gear.

Following is a letter from Bishop Farrell inviting families and youth to attend this family-friendly event, as well as the transportation waiver. We hope you will make plans to join us!

[Bishop Farrell Letter](#)
[Transportation Waiver](#)



You are cordially invited to attend the

6th grade boys D2 vs. All Saints @ All Saints, 1/16, 9:00 AM

6th grade boys D1 vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark, 1/16, 2:00 PM

7th grade girls vs. St. Joseph @ St. Mark, 1/16, 4:00 PM

7th grade girls vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 1/17, 3:00 PM

7th grade boys vs. IC @ St. Mark, 1/16, 5:00 PM & 1/17 vs. All Saints @ St. Mark, 4:00 PM

8th grade girls vs. St. Thomas @ St. Thomas, 1/16, 2:00 PM

8th grade boys Green vs. All Saints @ St. Mark, 1/16, 3:00 PM & 1/17 vs. POP @ POP, 2:00 PM

8th grade boys Gold vs. POP @ POP, 1/16, 5:00 PM & 1/17 vs. MIS @ St. Mark, 1:00 PM

8th grade boys D3 vs. Holy Trinity @ St. Mark, 1/16, 6:00 PM & 1/17 vs. Mt. St. Michael @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM

During home games, be sure to visit our fully-stocked concession stand, and stock up on LION gear at the Lion's Den spirit store!

**St. Mark Catholic School
29th Annual Dinner & Auction!**

When: February 6, 2016

Where: Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center in
Plano

Tickets: \$75.00

Click here to buy tickets:
www.stmcs.net/auction



**HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, January 13-Friday January 22:
Preschool- 5th Grade Memory Book Drive

Wednesday, January 20: Teacher Luncheon-
Hosted by TK, K and 6th Grade

Sunday, January 24: Used Uniform Sale- 9:00
AM-12:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym

Preschool- 5th Grade Memory Book Drive:
A flyer was sent home with students (Preschool-
5th Grade) on Wednesday with information on
memory book orders. If you did not receive this
flyer, please [click here](#). The deadline to order
Preschool- 5th Grade Memory Books is Friday
January 22. If you have questions, please contact
Tiffany Duncan at tlduncan34@yahoo.com.

Used Uniform Sale: Please [click here](#) for more
information about the Used Uniform Sale
coming up on Sunday, January 24.



**FEBRUARY
WATCH D.O.G.S. DAYS
NOW AVAILABLE**

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

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

**ST. MARK 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION WITH
PAST/PRESENT CLERGY**

Join past/present clergy in
celebrating St. Mark's
milestone 50th anniversary
on Friday, January 29 at
the 5:30 PM Mass, followed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Junior Achievement: Help needed! We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: **Thompson, Crider, Ostermann, and Ferri**. JA classes span five weeks, and each class is 30 minutes long. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Frye at Kathleen.Frye@yahoo.com.



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

Helping Hands Committee:

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death or any life changing event, please [click here](#) to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

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

by dinner at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. Share memories while enjoying appetizers, gourmet fire-oven pizzas and other Italian fare, wine, beer and desserts. [Click here](#) for further details.

CELEBRATION OF LOVE

St. Mark Parish invites you to the annual "Celebration of Love." Renew your marriage vows and enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, love and laughter on February 13 at 6:45 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. [Click here](#) for more information.



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

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.



LION PRIDE!

Diocesan Spelling Bee: The 2016 Diocese of Dallas Catholic Schools Spelling Bee was hosted at St. Mark on Thursday. Students representing the other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas participated. While a Cistercian student won this round, we offer huge congratulations to our own Sarah H., who placed in the top six and will move on to the Dallas County Spelling Bee next month! Special thanks to Ms. Joyce Burke and Ms. Pam Steinkirchner who did a wonderful job coordinating this event for the Diocese.

(photo removed)

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Pre-K Participates in Winter Olympics:

Our Preschool students became Winter Olympians this week in Music & Movement Class with Mrs. Schell. They were challenged to move through an obstacle course while doing different physical activities such as marching, hopping and crawling. All of our "athletes" did an amazing job and got some great exercise!

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

STEM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ST. MARK

TK & Kindergarten Three Little Pigs: Our TK and Kindergarten students participated in the "Three Little Pigs" STEM project. They were challenged to build a house that would hold three pigs, and support a tennis ball

(photo removed)

Respect Life Club: The Respect Life Club benefitted from a couple of guest speakers on Tuesday. The elementary students had a visit from a police officer who spoke to them about making good choices and how that, as Christians, we need to make decisions based on what is right, not popular. Middle school students learned from someone who works with juveniles in juvenile detention centers in North Texas.

(photos removed)

Drama Kids: Our Drama Kids students got to bring parents to class this week for the "Take Your Mama to Drama" day. Parents and students participated in the fun!

(photo removed)

Librarian for the Day: Anthony F. assisted Mrs. Hollenbeck as "Librarian for the Day" on Thursday. He had a wonderful time helping her with the many duties of a school librarian. This package was purchased at last year's school auction. Be sure to look for it again at the Sweetheart's Gala & Auction on February 6!

(photo removed)

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on the roof, as well as withstand "wind."

(photo removed)

3rd Grade Jello Earthquakes: Students were challenged to build a structure out of marshmallows and toothpicks that, when placed on top of a pan of Jello, would withstand the waves, rolls and shakes of an "earthquake."

(photo removed)

5th Grade Hoop Gliders: Our 5th grade students completed a STEM activity last week by making "hoop gliders" using paper hoops and straws. They learned that design heavily affected the distance that their gliders were able to fly!

(photo removed)

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Thanks to our alumni who visited campus last week! Love seeing former students on campus, like **Andrew P. (Class of 2010)**, who is currently a sophomore at The University of Notre Dame. He is pictured below with his brother, 6th grader Jack.

(photo removed)

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

We have two brides-to-be on staff! Congratulations to two recently engaged St. Mark teachers: 4th grade teacher, Amy Wells, who was proposed to on Wednesday in front of the entire staff by her boyfriend, Jason Forrester; and Computer Apps Lab teacher, Beth Lipscomb, who was recently engaged to her boyfriend, Steve Kyle. We look forward to celebrating two upcoming weddings!



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