



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

November 4, 2016

### Prayer for the 2016-17 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

### St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would Jesus Christ with all our hearts, mind and soul.

## REMINDERS

### TODAY, Friday, November 4:

-8th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

### Sunday, November 6:

-Daylight Savings Time Ends (turn clocks back one hour)



9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Lions Lair Gym: St. Mark [Book Fair](#) Family Day ([Book Fair](#) runs Nov. 6-11; details below)

-11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, St. Mark Library: Open House for Prospective Families (details below)

### Monday, November 7:

-St. Mark Spirit Day (see page 25 in the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for dress code)

-8:00 AM, Rm. 142: [Community Prayer Team](#) Meeting



A National School of Excellence

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## QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Limited Openings for 2016-17](#)  
[Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)  
[Lunch Menus](#)  
[Safe Environment Training](#)

## OPEN HOUSE

-Fall Enrichment Clubs End

-[Scrip Gift Card](#) Sales Begin (details below)

-2:30 PM, Church Cry Room: Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

-8th Grade DPL Volleyball All Star Games, Bishop Lynch High School (8D2 @ 6:30 PM, 8D1 @ 7:30 PM)

**Tuesday, November 8:**

-Election Day

-Picture Retakes: Wear a school sweater.

**Wednesday, November 9:**

-7:30 AM, Cafetorium: Pastries For Parents

-9:00 AM, Plano Fire Dept. Visits PK

-10:00 AM, Church: 2nd Grade First Reconciliation

-Teacher Luncheon hosted by 1st & 7th Grades

**Thursday, November 10:**

-Free Dress Day for 1st grade only (Box Tops winner); details below

-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: St. Mark Spelling Bee

**Friday, November 11:**

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 8th grade. All are welcome.

-8th grade visits Ursuline Academy & Jesuit College Prep

**Sunday, November 13:**

-7:00 PM, All Saints Catholic Church: Children's Choir Sings at All Saints Festival Orchestra & Chorus Fall Concert

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Parents: As we continue to share with you the many things offered to your students at St. Mark, I'd like to focus this month's message on the programs designed to reach children who are designated as gifted/talented, as well as those who need additional support in the classroom.

**Know anyone interested in a St. Mark education for their child?** The first



Open House of the year will take place this Sunday, November 6 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM in the St. Mark Library. Prospective families can [click here](#) to pre-register.

**PARISH DONATIONS NOTICE**

The parish office will be sending donation status updates within the next few days. Please check your notice to ensure your parish donations have been credited to your account. If you have any questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard in the parish office now to avoid the year end rush. Nadya can be reached at (972) 423-5600 ext 258 or [ncollard@stmarkplano.org](mailto:ncollard@stmarkplano.org).

As a reminder, the annual donation is \$800 per family and is due in full by December 31, 2016.

Please note - the donation update is strictly just an "update," and cannot be used for tax donation reporting or anything else.

**IT'S ST. MARK BOOK FAIR TIME!**

The annual St. Mark Scholastic Book Fair will take place November 6-11 in the Lions Lair Gym. Our theme



this year is "Reading is My Superpower." Purchase required reading books, holiday gifts, and more. Students can enter the annual Poster Contest, participate in the new "Get Caught Reading" raffle, and

Reaching all the students in any classroom, both gifted and otherwise, has always been a challenge, and at St. Mark, that challenge is very real. Our curriculum is an academically rigorous program which is accelerated and enriched. Even as early as first grade, our students are working about one grade level above their public school counterparts. And from there, the pace and expectations continue to grow each year.

51% of our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and 41% of our 7th graders qualified as academically talented by the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) based on last year's Iowa Assessment Test scores. There is another large percentage of our students who have official learning differences as diagnosed by their doctors and who require individualized accommodations. And then on any given day, on any given topic, any student may struggle with mastering a concept. These students all sit in the same classrooms, learning the same objectives, but have very different learning needs. We have to teach whatever we teach so that each student feels known, valued, and supported. Here are some ways we accomplish this:

All Students:

- ALL St. Mark students take a pre-assessment so that teachers can plan tiered activities accordingly. This is done seamlessly and students do not even know the teacher is differentiating their learning.
- Teachers work with students in small groups with two goals in mind: They can hear from students who get lost in the larger group setting and reteach content in alternate ways, and they can extend and enrich content even more for those who need it.
- S.T.E.M. activities encourage creativity and problem-solving at the highest level the student is capable of achieving.

For our more academically gifted students, we employ several methods to maintain engagement and challenge:

- Independent projects are created for some students, once they have demonstrated a high level of mastery of the current objective.
- Students may participate in, or qualify for, critical-thinking clubs such as Robotics, Engineering, 4th Grade Math Club, and Coding, as well as numerous competitions such as Quiz Bowl, Math Counts, Catholic Math League, and Religion Bowl, just to name a few.

purchase the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down* book. Parents: Volunteer during your child's class time, take advantage of special events such as Pastries For Parents, and pick up a book or two for your child's class. [Click here](#) for complete details about how to buy books at the Book Fair, how to volunteer, and to see when the grade-levels will visit. All proceeds benefit the St. Mark Library.

### LAST DAY OF FALL ENRICHMENT CLUBS

The last day for Fall Enrichment Clubs is Monday, November 7. Remember that on Monday, November 14, children will need to be picked-up at regular dismissal time.

### ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

**This Week's Prayer:**

Please pray for our 2nd graders as they make their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, November 9. *As you trust your heart to Jesus on this blessed, sacred day, may you feel the peace of God above as His Presence lights your way.* - Penelope F. Martin



**Upcoming Events:**

\*Join us every Monday at 2:30 PM in the Church Cry Room to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our school and country.

\*Our next meeting will be this Monday, November 7 at 8:00 AM, Room 142 near the Music Room. Please join us in praying for our school. It will last approximately 30

-Students in grades 7 and 8 may qualify for honor-level classes.

For students who need it, additional support is provided:

- If a student has been diagnosed with a learning difference and needs help in the classroom, a Team Conference is held. At this conference, an Accommodation Sheet is created listing the specific instructional recommendations made by their doctor. This sheet is given to the teachers and is used to help guide them as they work with the student to be successful in the classroom.
- Two Resource Teachers provide in-classroom support, as well as pull out programs.
- We offer Study Hall as both an Enrichment Club and a middle school elective.

Self-efficacy is born only when a student encounters something believed to be out of reach, only to find that he or she had what it took to overcome what seemed impossible. In that way, motivation to learn flourishes, persistence is a price worth paying, and an uncertain child becomes a real student. By offering all students this opportunity to grow as learners, teachers instill lifelong skills that ultimately benefit those students in their future careers.

Therefore, it is the goal of St. Mark Catholic School to continue finding ways to enrich our programs where all students can successfully develop their gifts and talents. Please take a moment to stop by our "Spotlight Display" in the front lobby to see more.

*Patricia Opon*

Patricia Opon  
Principal  
[patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net)

### BOX TOPS WINNER!

Congratulations to 1st grade -- they brought in the most Box Tops during the 1st quarter, and will enjoy a Free Dress Day on Thursday, November 10! Please see page 25 of the Parent Student Handbook for dress code information.



### 30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

minutes. Praying out loud is not required.



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

### SEND BL CHOIR TO ROME!

The Bishop Lynch High School A Cappella Choir has been invited to sing for the Papal Epiphany Mass in Rome on January 6, 2017. You can help get them there! To raise funds for the trip, the BL choirs are selling poinsettias this weekend after all Masses (November 5-6). If you would like to purchase in advance, please contact [Ann Rossigno](#) or [Laura Arnold](#). Poinsettias will be delivered December 1-4.



### ST. MARK YOUTH MINISTRY

**You are Invited to the Parish Family Picnic & Movie:** November 19, 6:00 PM, St. Mark Athletic Field (Lion's Lair Gym if raining). Bring your own dinner and a dessert to share. Sponsored by the St. Mark Knights of Columbus and supported by Youth Ministries.

**For High Schoolers:** Dallas Catholic Youth Conference, March 3, 4, 5. The St. Mark NET team will be attending. First 50 spots are \$85; \$165 Early Bird Rate after that. **Registration**

**Sponsorships:** St. Mark Parents - Do you own a business that would benefit from promotion within the St. Mark community? If so, become a St. Mark Catholic School 2017 Gala & Auction Sponsor. Sponsorship packages range from \$500 - \$2,500 and can include ads on the auction website, in the auction program, and in the St. Mark school directory. In addition to cash donations, the auction committee would also like your in-kind donations...gift certificates, experiences, etc. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Ann Rossigno](#), and for in-kind donations, please contact [Chandi Owen](#).



**Tickets:** The 2017 Gala & Auction is scheduled for February 18, 2017 at Marriott Legacy Center. Purchase your discounted tickets for \$65 now by [clicking here](#). This discount will only be available until November 18 (deadline extended). We nearly reached capacity prior to Christmas last year, so buy your tickets early to ensure you get to enjoy the festivities. If you have questions, please reach out to [Eric Librea](#).

**Mixers:** Pre-Auction Mixers have been finalized, and electronic invitations will be arriving in your e-mail soon. Please see dates and times below and begin marking your calendar. If you have questions, please contact [Rebecca Battles](#).

- PK3-TK - December 10, 4-7 PM
- K-2 Grade - December 3, 7-10 PM
- 3-5 Grade - November 11, 7-10 PM
- 6-8 Grade - December 9, 7-11 PM

## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

A few scenes from this week. To learn the stories behind these pictures, visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

5th Green/Gold Vball Teams - DPL JV Co-Champs!



All Souls Run/Fall Festival:

deadline is November 17. [Register here.](#)

## ST. MARK PRO-LIFE FUNDRAISER

The St. Mark Pro-Life ministry will be selling nativities, wreaths, rosaries, Christmas cards and much more on November 5-6 in the Bethany Narthex. Plan to do your Christmas shopping early! Proceeds benefit Catholic Pregnancy Centers/ Maternity Homes, Baby Items for Mothers in Need, and Spanish/English Life & Family speaker events.

## ST. MARK BINGO KNIGHT



The St. Mark Knights of Columbus present Bingo on Saturday, November 12 starting at 6:30 PM benefitting military and veterans' organizations, among others. Visit [www.kofc-6065.org](http://www.kofc-6065.org) to pre-register. To become a table sponsor or make a donation, email [Mike Bernatis](#).

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



A big thank you to everyone who helped make our 3rd annual All Souls Run a huge success -- it was our best yet! We had great participation from the community, as well as wonderful volunteers who really stepped up to help. Race results are posted [here](#). Don't forget to post your photos to [#remembrancerun2016!](#)



**Youth & Government:**



**JPII PALS:**



**1st Grade Pumpkin S.T.E.M.:**



**8th Grade Living Saints Museum:**



**3rd Grade PSA Soccer:**

**Upcoming Football/Volleyball Games:** [Click here](#) for schedules.

**Download Game Photos:** Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#). View and purchase photos from recent events.

**Basketball Registration Now Open:** Please [click here](#) for information and registration. The deadline is November 14, 2016.

**Dallas Parochial League Scholarships:** The DPL will offer 4-6 separate \$500 scholarships to worthy 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the 2016-17 school year. Additional details, eligibility, and the application can be found on the [DPL website](#). The deadline to apply is December 9, 2016.

**Coach Safe Environment Training:** All volunteer coaches for Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Track must submit their Safe Environment certification to [Marlene Ehring](#) as soon as possible.



**Monsignor Smyth Golf**

**Classic:** This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehring](#) if you are interested.



**Thank You:** The HSA would like to thank our Room Parents for the many hours and endless creativity that they shared with our students



**Art Club Chimes:**



**Spanish Classes Celebrate Dia de los Muertos:**



**4th Grade FC Barcelona Soccer:**



**3K Soccer:**



during the Class Halloween Parties. We cannot wait to see what they have in store for the Class Christmas Parties!

**Earn Money for St. Mark Simply by Shopping:** Christmas, the Season of Giving, is just around the corner, just like your neighborhood Tom Thumb and Kroger. And guess what? Tom Thumb and Kroger celebrate the Season of Giving year round. Link your shopper cards today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries.



**Scrip Gift Cards Coming**

**Soon!** Giving gift cards this year? Support St. Mark by purchasing them for the holidays and beyond through our SCRIP program. Our school receives a percentage back from every sale. Order forms will be sent home next week or you may [click here](#) to print your own form. For any questions, please contact [Joan Ternan](#).

**Safe Environment:** A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobs](#) with questions.

**BISHOP LYNCH TOUR OPPORTUNITIES**

**Moms' Tea and Tour - November 10, 2016, 9:00 AM in the**

**BL Bistro:** BL invites all moms of prospective students to the annual [Moms' Tea and Tour](#). Enjoy a light breakfast, hear from admin., current moms, and take a tour. RSVP to the email



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below (include name and student's name).

**Open House - BL Sunday - November 13, 2016, 1:00 PM in the Leyden Arts & Athletics**

**Gymnasium:** Come to [BL Sunday](#), the annual Open House for all prospective students and parents. Visit classrooms, attend info. sessions, and tour the campus.

For additional information, email [admissions@bishoplynch.org](mailto:admissions@bishoplynch.org), or call 214.324.3607, ext. 4127 or ext. 4134.

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