



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

December 16, 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, December 16:

-6th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming weeks.

-12:00 PM Dismissal; After School Program is available until 3:00 PM.



10:00 AM-11:00 PM - Raising Cane's Fundraiser: Mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage is donated to our Athletics Department.

**Monday, December 19-Friday, December 30:** Christmas Break

### Saturday, December 24:

-5:00 PM, Church: Children's Choir Sings at Mass & 5th Grade Presents a shortened version of the Christmas Pageant

**Monday, January 2:** No School; Staff Development



A National School of Excellence

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Follow us and stay connected!



## QUICK LINKS

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

Tuesday, January 3: School Resumes

## PARISH DONATION REMINDER



In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2016. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that did not meet the \$800 minimum will be sent out

in late January 2017. To submit payment electronically, please [click here](#). If you have any questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard at (972) 423-5600 ext 258 or [ncollard@stmarkplano.org](mailto:ncollard@stmarkplano.org).

## STAFF CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to fourth grade teacher Mrs. Helene Mercado who has been voted **St. Mark Teacher of the Year** by her peers. This deserving educator is passionate about teaching and it truly shows in the classroom. Mrs. Mercado is now eligible to be considered for the Diocesan Teacher of the Year Award which will be announced later this school year.

Further congratulations to Art Teacher Ms. Tammy Williams and Early Childhood Education Coordinator Mrs. Toni Jobes, who both received **Work of Heart Awards** at today's All School Mass. Sponsored by The Catholic Foundation, these awards honor those in the Catholic education community who continually go above and beyond the call of duty. Both received a certificate and a \$500 check.



We're so proud of our winners!

## PUT YOUR POSITIVE FEEDBACK TO WORK

## [Safe Environment Training](#)

## THANK YOU FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF

A very special thank you from the faculty and staff to our wonderful school families, to the Home & School Association, and to Father Cliff, for a beautiful Christmas Celebration dinner on Tuesday evening. The food, prepared by Father Cliff, was simply amazing. Appetizers, drinks, dessert, and special poinsettia gifts from HSA were wonderful. And the fact that many dozens of school families contributed the gifts of Gold (money), Frankincense (time), and Myrrh (food/poinsettias) to the celebration was so very touching to us all. We are blessed to be a part of this community, and appreciate all that you do to support the faculty and staff. Thank you for "spoiling us!"

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

**Sports Physicals:** All DPL athletes must have a current [Sports Physical](#) on file. To assist you, Plano Urgent Care, adjacent to St. Mark, is offering \$25.00 school and sports physicals. See below for information.

We are so appreciative of the positive comments we continue to receive about our school, our programs, and our teachers. Please keep sharing your thoughts with us! In the meantime, we encourage you to make your positive feedback go even further by posting it on [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org). We maintain a 4/5 ranking on this website that assists prospective families with their school decisions, and your comments can help. In addition, teachers can be nominated for [The Catholic Foundation's Work of Heart Award](#) at any time, and the nomination process is simple. Recipients receive formal recognition, as well as a check for \$500. Let's all spread the good word about St. Mark!

## END-OF-YEAR GIVING

If you are considering an additional end-of-year donation, St. Mark Catholic Church and School are non-profit organizations that allow you to make tax-deductible donations. As the end of the year approaches and you review your tax-deductible donations, please consider giving 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, Bank of America, Boeing, Chevron, Cisco, Conoco Phillips, Deloitte, Gates Foundation, Intel, Lockheed Martin, Merck, Met Life, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Raytheon, Texas Instruments, Verizon, and Walmart. Another good resource for learning if your company has a matching gift program is [www.matchinggifts.com/smu](http://www.matchinggifts.com/smu).

-Please consider supporting our Smart Lab. Donations can be made by sending a check payable to the school with "Smart Lab" in the memo line, or by [clicking here](#) and using the "Donations - Smart Lab" fund category.

- 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. Donations may also be made to the St. Mark Gap Fund and Technology Fund.

- To make a donation to St. Mark Catholic Church, [click here](#).

As a reminder, donations to the school do not count towards the required \$800 parish donation. We are truly appreciative of your support.



### **Download Game Photos:**

Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#).

View and purchase photos from recent events.

### **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.

## 2017 DIOCESAN ROE MEMORIAL MASS & NORTH TEXAS MARCH FOR LIFE

Bishop Kelly invites all North Texas Catholics to join him for two days of prayer and witness at the Roe Memorial Mass on Friday, January 13 and the North Texas March for Life on Saturday, January 14, 2017. [Click here](#) for the official letter

## YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS CAN PAY OFF AGAIN

Did you know that some companies donate to nonprofit organizations based on the number of hours their employees volunteer with that organization? For example, Texas Instruments, IBM, Brinker, Southwest Airlines, and Verizon all offer programs where monetary donations, airlines ticket vouchers, etc. are awarded to nonprofits for volunteer hours. Be sure to check your company's policies. We all volunteer at St. Mark in some capacity. Make those hours pay off again by requesting a matching corporate donation to St. Mark!



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Thank You:** The Home and School Association would like to thank all of our St. Mark families and parishioners who took the time during the busiest season of the year to give to the Faculty & Staff Christmas Celebration held on December 13, 2016. Please [click here](#) to see our list of donors.

HSA is blessed to have such wonderful and dedicated Room Parents. Thank you, Room Parents, for all of your hard work to make the class Christmas parties successful and filled with cheer! For a list of your Room Parents, please [click here](#).

**Junior Achievement: Help Needed!** We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: Paulson, Flores, Ostermann, and Pennartz. 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 [kathleenfrye@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenfrye@yahoo.com).



Don't forget -- as you do your holiday shopping (as well as your everyday shopping), click the Amazon link on the [St. Mark homepage](#). This easy step earns money for our school.

of invitation from Bishop Kelly, and [click here](#) for complete details.

## FRENCH MASS AT CISTERCIAN ABBEY

Mrs. Denvir invites French students, and anyone interested, to attend a special French Mass on Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Cistercian Abbey, 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, TX 75039. English translations are provided so you can follow along, there is an opportunity to do a reading during the service, and French snacks are served immediately following the Mass.

## 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 Grade STEM- Balloon Cars:



### 8th Grade Discusses Radiation:



### PK-3 Service:

We've made it even easier for you by adding the Amazon "a" logo at the very top of the homepage, next to the social media links:



We have received questions about topics such as order privacy, how you know your order is linked to St. Mark, and what the difference is between the Amazon School Rewards Program and Amazon Smile. Please [click here](#) for "Frequently Asked Questions." The percentage of sales that St. Mark earns varies by how much traffic we generate. Currently, we're making about 6.5% of purchases, which is fantastic! Let's keep up the momentum and make easy money for St. Mark!

**Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery 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.

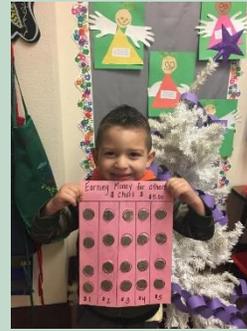
**Safe Environment:** A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobs](#) with questions.

## 30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

### Buy Tickets:

The 30th Annual Gala & Auction is less than 2 months away and will be on February 18, 2017 at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. We are filling up quickly and you don't want to miss the opportunity to bid on this year's first ever "**Jump with Me Teacher/Parent Sky Diving**" live auction item or a hand-carved nativity scene straight from the Holy Land. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, here's an incentive for you: Tickets purchased from November 19 to December 16 (by 12:00 NOON) will be entered into a raffle drawing where the prize will be an **overnight stay at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center!** You can use that free stay the night of the event or by the expiration date on the certificate. See below for other great incentives to buy those tickets now:

- Swag bags await each family that attends the event. We currently have coupon and/or item commitments from Kenny's Restaurant Group (Kenny's Smoke House, Kenny's East Side Pizza,



Duke TIP PSAT:



PK-3 STEM-Christmas Slime:



3rd Grade STEM-Christmas Trees:



Wacky Tacky Christmas:



Staff Christmas Party:

Kenny's Burger Joint), Raising Cane's, Jumpstreet, 7-11, Patrón Spirits, and we're expecting more!

- Students whose parents attend and are from the **class** with the best parent turnout will get an ice cream party at Sweet Firefly!
- Students whose parents attend and are from the **grade level** with the best parent turnout will get an afternoon of bowling, bounce house, trampoline jumping, or something similar!
- Commemorative stemless wine glasses to first-time event attendees!
- Surprise items will be included in randomly selected swag bags!

Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#). If you have questions, ideas, or would like to help out, please reach out to [Eric Librea](#). If you feel like attending but don't have a group or table to join, please reach out to [Lori Gonzalez](#) and she will make sure you are seated with the fun crowd!

#### How to Donate:

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 and 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](#).

**Thank You:** Thank You to the Host and Co-Host families for opening your homes and donating your time for the Pre-Auction mixers. We had a wonderful time at each of your events.

Thank You to the families who attended the pre-auction mixers. We hope our faculty/staff presentations answered questions pertaining to the SmartLab, and we hope you met new people and made new friends.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

#### **December's Prayer Intention for our School:**

For our volunteers to be abundant and our committees to be wise.

**This Week's Prayer:** A Prayer for Christmas:  
*Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the*



**Class Christmas Parties:**



**Band Concert:**



**PK3 & PK 4 Gingerbread Hunt:**



**Christmas Pageant:**



**Girl Scouts Spread Cheer:**



**7th Grade STEM - CSI:**

*gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*



#### **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 on Monday, January 9 at 8:00 AM in Room 142 near the Music Room. It will last approximately 30 minutes. Please come join us in praying for our school. All are welcome. Praying out loud is not required.

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St. Mark Catholic School, 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075

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