



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

December 9, 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 9:

-2nd grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-Pre-Auction Mixer - Grades 6-8 (details below)

Saturday, December 10:

-School Campus: P.S.A.T. administered by Duke T.I.P.

-Pre-Auction Mixer - Grades PK-TK (details below)

Monday, December 12:

-12/12-16: SCRIP gift card pick-up

-12/12-15: Middle School Midterms

Tuesday, December 13:

-2:45 PM, Cafetorium: Band Performance

-4:30 PM, St. Mark Parish Center: Teacher Christmas Celebration

Thursday, December 15:

-6:30 PM, Church: Christmas Pageant



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](#)

**CHRISTMAS VACATION
REMINDER**

Friday, December 16:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 2nd grade. All are welcome.

-Class Christmas Parties

-12:00 PM Dismissal; After School Program is available until 3:00 PM. Students will have eaten pizza for lunch. There is no need to send a lunch with ASP students unless they require additional food.



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:

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

Monday, January 2: No School; Staff Development

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.

**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

If you are planning a family vacation that extends outside the Christmas break, please notify the school by emailing Mrs. O'Connor at rene.oconnor@stmcs.net.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As we transition into the winter months and the possibility of inclement weather, please be reminded that school closing or delayed opening will be announced on television channels **NBC (5) AND ABC (8)**, either the evening before or between the hours of 6:00 and 7:00 AM. E-mail and text notification will be made via Ren Web along with a posting on the school website. Refer to page 22 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for the full policy details.

COLD WEATHER REMINDER

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

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The annual St. Mark Christmas Pageant will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 PM in the Church. Grades Preschool through 5th participate. A formal invitation outlining specific details about attire, arrival/dismissal procedures, etc. was sent to all Preschool-5th grade families earlier this week. [Click here](#) to access it. We look forward to seeing everyone for this longstanding St. Mark tradition and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas!

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.

-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.

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**

Staff Christmas Celebration:

Note: In case you miss the pageant, the 5th grade will present a shortened version at the 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.

ORNAMENTS FOR OUR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREES

We love to decorate our school Christmas trees 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 one of the trees located in the school lobby or in the Cafeteria. Construction paper chains, or ornaments made at home or at school are all welcome. Let's fill the branches with our students' beautiful creations!

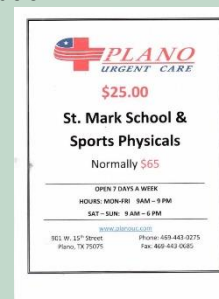


ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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.



Download Game Photos: Check out the [Dallas Parochial League](#)

The Faculty and Staff Christmas Celebration (hosted by the Home & School Association) is Tuesday, December 13 in the Great Hall at the Parish Center. There are many ways you can still contribute to this event. Please [click here](#) to make a contribution (be it money, time, goods, or poinsettias). Contributors will be publicly acknowledged at the event. Thank you for making this Christmas Season special for our St. Mark Faculty & Staff!

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.

Your Support of HSA is Appreciated! As 2016 is coming to a close, your HSA wants to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year. Your membership dues, combined with our merchant reward programs (Amazon and grocery store cards), Used Uniform sales, and SCRIP gift card sales, enable HSA to assist the school and our children with numerous activities. Even with the price reduction in family dues this year, HSA is able to accomplish the following:

Printing the annual school directory, purchasing the school's movie license, Family Movie Night, Memory Books, Field Day including food, bounce houses and student t-shirts, First Communion and Graduation celebrations, annual staff Christmas celebration, Pastor and Principal appreciation gifts, student Ice Cream Socials, Book Fair, Science Fair, general meeting expenses (coffee, pastries, paper goods), and so much more.

As you can see, your membership is what makes these things happen. The Executive Board thanks you, but MOST importantly, our children and our school thank you!

Meeting Attendance/Minutes: HSA understands that not everyone is able to attend meetings in person. For your convenience, the meeting minutes are always posted on the [school's website](#) for your review.

HSA Budget: If you are ever interested in reviewing the HSA annual budget to see how funds are allocated, please contact one of the officers, [Ashley Ternan](#), [Jill Dourty](#), [Paola Colon](#), or [Mireya Cowen](#), and they will be happy to share it with you.

[Smug Mug photo site](#). View and purchase photos from recent events.

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.

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 Exams: Father, be with me as I take this exam. Keep my mind alert and my memory sharp. Calm my nerves and help me concentrate. I know that you will walk with me, guiding my path and inspiring my heart. I pray that I would feel you with me, and that your friendship would soften the pressure I feel. I pray that I would*



Don't forget -- as you begin 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.

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

Pre-Auction Mixers this weekend!!

We want as many families to attend a mixer as possible. Please plan to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to your party.



*The Middle School Mixer is **TONIGHT at 7:00 PM**. The party is being held at The Rossigno's home in Richardson. This is a Parent-Only event.

pass this exam and go on to new things with you. Thank you for your peace and your love in my life. Thank you for your kindness and care for me. Amen. Source:

www.livingprayers.com

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, Room 142 near the Music Room. It will last around 30 minutes. Please come join us in praying for our school. All are welcome. Praying out loud is not required.

WATCH D.O.G.S.



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

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

FRENCH MASS AT CISTERCIAN ABBEY

*The Early Childhood Mixer is **TOMORROW at 4:00 PM**. The party is being held at the Cowen's home in Murphy. Children and families are welcome to attend.

If you have forgotten to RSVP, you are still welcome to attend. If you have misplaced your invitation e-mail and need any details, you can contact [Rebecca Battles](#).

Buy Tickets:

The 30th Annual Gala & Auction is less than 3 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. We also have other incentives lined up:

- Swag bags await each family that attends the event. We currently have a coupon and/or item commitment from Kenny's Restaurant Group (Kenny's Smoke House, Kenny's East Side Pizza, 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 (dlgonzalezfamily@yahoo.com) 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**

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!

Diocesan Speech Tournament:



Spirit/Holiday T-Shirt Day:



Pajama Day:



ECE Polar Express Unit:

Catholic School 2017 Gala & Auction

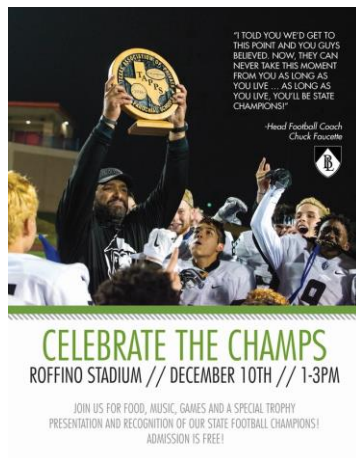
Sponsor. Sponsorship packages range from \$500 - \$2,500 and can include ads on the auction website, in the auction program, and in the St. Mark school directory. In addition to cash donations, the auction committee would also like your in-kind donations...gift certificates, experiences, etc. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Ann Rossigno](#) and for in-kind donations, please contact [Chandi Owen](#).

THANK YOU

The Gala & Auction Committee would like to thank everyone who supported St. Mark at the Chipotle Fundraiser event on Tuesday December 6. **Your efforts helped us raise \$850!** We are looking into additional Chipotle fundraising nights in the coming months. If you have suggestions or ideas to increase attendance, please contact [Rebecca Battles](#).

CELEBRATE WITH BL STATE CHAMPS!

The Bishop Lynch High School football team just won their State Championship and you are invited to celebrate with them tomorrow, December 10! See details at right and [click here](#) to RSVP.



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Middle School Hour of Code:



Christmas & Advent Spirit:



6th Grade Terracotta Warriors:



PK-3 Snow:



Watch D.O.G.S. Dad to the Rescue:



Orchestra Performance:



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