



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

March 18, 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders

What's Happening in Lionland
Back To School Info. - Fall 2016
Academic Outfitters Scholarship Application
Wheelchair Needed
Save the Date: St. Mark S.T.E.M. Fair
Start Planning Summer with Kidventure!
Half Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark!
Limited Spots Still Available for 2016-17
New "Referral Thank You Program"
Order Your St. Mark Legacy Brick
Ms. Williams Needs Bottle Caps
Home and School Association (HSA) News
Holy Trinity Seminary
French Masses at Cistercian
From the NET Team
DPL Night at FC Dallas
Spotlight on Staff
In Alumni News...
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark
LION PRIDE!

REMINDERS

Sunday, March 20:

-Palm Sunday

-10:30 AM, Church: St. Mark Children's Choir
Sings at Mass

Wednesday, March 23:

-Jesuit Drama Troupe Presentation (grades 5-8)

Thursday, March 24:



**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!



-3rd quarter ends

-7:30 AM: School Advisory Council Meeting

-10:30 AM, Church: Living Stations of the Cross presented by 8th grade

-12:00 NOON, Early Dismissal

-After School Program available until 3:00 PM; please send a lunch with After School Program students

-Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details below)

Friday, March 25:

-Good Friday, No School For Students

Sunday, March 27:

-Easter Sunday

Monday, March 28:

-4th quarter begins

-Students may begin wearing the optional uniform walking shorts to school (please refer to page 25 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines)

-John Paul II High School PALs visit 5th grade

Wednesday, March 30:

-Respect Life Club Baby Shower (donations accepted in all morning carpool lines)

-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: HSA General Meeting

BACK TO SCHOOL INFO. - FALL 2016

Earlier this week, we sent out "Back To School" event dates for Fall 2016 in order to provide our families with plenty of advance planning time. We've also condensed the info. into a one page document (enabling you to print it out and

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 5th 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.



Mercy: 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 "Mercy" 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.**

March Project: Right to Life Baby Shower

The March service project is the annual Baby Shower benefitting White Rose and Birth Choice pregnancy crisis centers. This is a joint effort between the St. Mark Respect Life Club and Knights of

refer to it "at a glance"). [Click here](#) for the printable version.

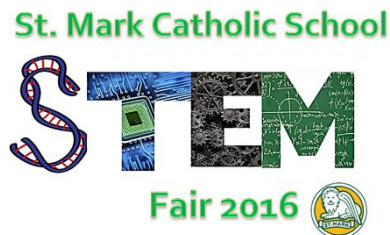
ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Academic Outfitters has announced their annual scholarship contest for 2016. Applicants must be rising K-12 students, display a financial need or merit, and be enrolled in one of their partner schools. The deadline to apply is April 11, 2016. [Click here](#) for more details on this and other available scholarships.

WHEELCHAIR NEEDED

We are updating supplies in the nurse's office and are looking for a foldable wheelchair to keep on hand for emergencies. If anyone has one at home that is old or not being used, we would ask you to consider donating it to our school. Interested parties, please email Nurse Townsend: caroline.townsend@stmcs.net.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK S.T.E.M. FAIR



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark Catholic School's First Annual S.T.E.M. Fair

Friday, April 8, 2016
5:00-8:00 PM
St. Mark Campus

Experience interactive displays, hands-on activities and interesting information for

Columbus Council 6065. It will be held at school on Wednesday, March 30. Preschool and elementary students donate needed baby items. Middle school students donate change during lunch periods. See below for specifics.

Preschool & Elementary Students:

Students will donate needed baby items. [Click here](#) for more information about the collection, and the needs list. If necessary, donations may be brought to the school between March 21-29, however, it is preferred that they be dropped off to RLC volunteers who will be present at all morning carpool lines on March 30.

Middle School Students:

Students will donate change during their lunch periods between March 14-24. Change should be deposited into the container at the front of the cafeteria labeled with the student's grade level (6th, 7th, 8th). The containers are quite large, so it will take the entire grade to fill them up!

Change should be placed in a baggie and shown to the student's religion teacher before depositing into the container (so the student gets credit for the March service project).

The grade that fills their container first wins a free dress day on March 30 and ice cream during lunch. If the other grades fill their containers, they will also get ice cream at lunch on March 30.

The money collected will be used to purchase car seats and/or cribs for the centers.

WHO'S WINNING?

At this time, 6th grade is in the lead. We challenge 7th and 8th grades to get their change in. Remember, the

children of all ages from the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. **Over 40** companies and organizations will be represented, including ...

Apple
AT&T
Fujitsu
IBM
Intel
Raytheon
Texas Instruments
The University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Dallas

Bring your own dinner or order Papa John's pizza through the school.

The Science Presentation begins at 5:00 PM in the Cafetorium. Be amazed by the world of chemical reactions while your family enjoys dinner! S.T.E.M. rotations begin at 6:00 PM in the Bacot Gym.

[Click here](#) for more details. Questions? Contact pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

We are honored to have **Allison Noe '14** serve as one of the event Co-Chairs.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2016-17

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited availability at various grade levels. For more information or to schedule a school tour, please call the school office at (972) 578-0610, or visit the school website at www.stmcs.net.

We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general information and Open House dates. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to

first to fill their container wins a free dress day AND ice cream at lunch on March 30!

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person.

Who Benefits? White Rose and Birth Choice Pregnancy Crisis Centers

Due Dates:

Preschool/Elementary School:
March 30

Middle School: March 24



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.

The March 2016 Lifetime Lions newsletter is out. [Click here](#) to read it.



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!

anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. [Click here](#) to see a sample.



Upcoming Open House for PreK-3, PreK-4, PreK-5/Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten

Wednesday, April 27, 2016
4:30-6:30 PM, ECE Bldg.
[Click here](#) to pre-register.



IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Thursday, March 24: Living Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 30, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium:
HSA General Meeting

HELP NEEDED:

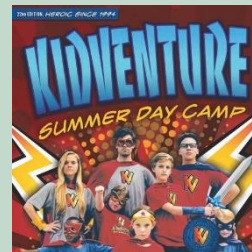
Parent Readers Needed: Readers are needed for Mrs. Helm's PK-4 class. Do you have 20 minutes on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays? It doesn't have to be every week or both days...whatever works for your schedule! Consider reading to Ms. Helm's PK-4 class at 12:00 PM for 20 minutes. Please contact Erica Rivera for more information and/or to be added to the schedule: ebakerhrw@yahoo.com.

PK-5th Grade Memory Book Pictures:
Preschool-5th grade Memory Book pictures

NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school! Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

START PLANNING SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!



St. Mark

Summer Camps With Kidventure: We are pleased to once again offer full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure. Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is **Summer Quest 2016**, a comic book come to life. Each week provides a new and unique adventure.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at <http://kidventure.com/register>.

are needed. If you have pictures of Preschool-5th grade students, please download them directly to the memory book website (school activities, band, music, plays, spirit day, sports and candid). Please make sure the photos that are downloaded are not blurry, and are from a high resolution camera. A lot of pictures are taken with smartphones these days and unfortunately, the resolution isn't high enough, so those photos cannot be used in the memory book. Here's how to download the pictures: Go to www.yearbookforever.com.

Type: St Mark (for the name, capital "S," no period after "St").

Click on "St Mark lower school"

Click on "Community upload" button

Access code: stmarklions

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 cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.



Box Tops: Keep sending in those Box Tops. 3rd grade is leading the competition and 4th grade is in second place. The deadline for the competition is Friday, April 22. The class

Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

For more information, please visit

<http://kidventure.com/plano-summer-camp/>, or call [214.303.9789](tel:214.303.9789).

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK

Order your St. Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. **Simply [click here](#) to place your order.**

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

with the most Box Tops will win a free dress day on Thursday, April 28!



HALF DAYS ARE CANE'S DAYS AT ST. MARK!

Eat at Raising Cane's Next Thursday! On each early dismissal day this school year, eat at Raising Cane's across the street from the school and a percentage of your purchase will be donated back to the St. Mark Athletic Department! Visit anytime next Thursday, March 24, between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order. Treat your family, and earn money for our school!

FROM THE NET TEAM

Let Us Adore

7:30-9:30pm @ St. Mark's Church



Let us Adore is a evening of Eucharistic Adoration, led by the NET Team, that is full of charismatic praise and worship as well as silence. Young and old are invited to pray together as a parish community.

Feb 12th • March 10th • March 31st
April 14th • May 6th

Middle School Youth Open House: This popular weekly get-together for 6th-8th graders takes place every Friday from 3:30-6:00 PM at the St. Mark Youth House, located behind the church. It is an opportunity to hang out with the NET Team and other students from the community. Notify [Patricia Opon](#) by Thursday of each week if your student wishes

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!



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. Join us at the following events:

Public Masses @ 9:15 AM:

March - 20th **
April - 3rd, 17th, 24th
May - 1st

**Stations of the Cross:

In addition to the morning public mass, Stations of the Cross will be performed by the seminarians at Holy Trinity Seminary on March 20 at 7:30 PM.

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions? 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.

to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal. A [Youth Ministry Enrollment Form](#) must be submitted for each participant on an annual basis.

DPL NIGHT AT FC DALLAS

Join FC Dallas for "Dallas Parochial League Night" as they take on the Quakes on Saturday, April 9 at Toyota Stadium. Kick-off time is 8:00 PM. [Click here](#) for more details and discounted tickets.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Holy Trinity Seminary Recognition: St. Mark received recognition in the Winter 2016 issue of Holy Trinity Seminary's *The Trinitarian* newsletter for our large presence at their Spes Gregis 2015 dinner. Students, alumni and staff were featured. [Click here](#) to read more.

Theology of the Body: Recently, our middle school students participated in an activity related to their Theology of the Body lesson in religion class that emphasized the importance of having guidance and direction when trying to reach a goal. Afterwards, they took some time to pray and reflect.

(photo removed)

PK-4 Makes Volcanoes: Before Spring Break, our PK-4 classes had fun creating their own volcanoes!

(photo removed)

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: March 20, April 17, and May 15.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Janice R. '15 is currently serving as the Freshman Student Council President at Ursuline Academy of Dallas. She recently joined with fellow Student Council officers from Ursuline and Jesuit College Preparatory School to welcome Bishop Gregory Kelly. Their photo appeared in a recent issue of *The Texas Catholic* newspaper.



Congratulations to **Casey B. '13** who was selected as one of



LION PRIDE!

PSIA: Congratulations to all of our St. Mark students who competed in the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic competition held on February 27 at St. Pius X. Special congratulations to the following students who placed in the top six in their events

*** Indicates State Qualifier**

Creative Writing

1st grade - Giovanni T. - 4th

Storytelling

1st grade - Max B. - 3rd

1st grade - Joey T. - 4th

2nd grade - Rhys W. - 1st *

2nd grade - Leah D. - 2nd

2nd grade - William B. - 3rd

3rd grade - Sarah H. - 4th

Spelling

2nd grade - Ethan S. - 1st (tie) *

2nd grade - Diya C. - 5th (tie)

2nd grade - Sofia S. - 5th (tie)

4th grade - Anthony N. - 2nd *

5th grade - Biya C. - 2nd *

Ready Writing

7th grade - Kennedy G. - 4th

Music Memory

2nd grade - Nathan P. - 2nd

2nd grade - Eli J. - 3rd

2nd grade - Ambrose D. - 5th

5/6th grade - Marielma G. - 6th

twenty-two junior Honors English students to represent Ursuline Academy of Dallas at the recent *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Colloquium at Greenhill School.

Athena B. '15 represented Ursuline Academy of Dallas at the prestigious 2016 Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and *Essence Magazine* earlier this month. The Academy, held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, taught more than 100 high school students how to discover possibilities and dream big. Athena was selected out of more than 9,000 applicants and her dream is to become a pediatric neurosurgeon. Because she wants to go into the medical field, Athena learned how to stitch up wounds by practicing on pig feet. [Watch her interview](#), and read more about her experiences [here](#).

(photo removed)

Congratulations to **Patrick B. '12** who, along with his Jesuit College Preparatory School varsity debate team partner, received third place overall at the recent 2016 Texas Forensic Association Debate Championship in Pflugerville, TX, and also received All-State recognition at the state debate tournament.

Vocabulary

7/8th grade - Megan W. - 1st *

7/8th grade - Erin B. - 4th

Number Sense

5th grade - Theresa T. - 1st *

7th grade - Anish K. - 6th

Maps, Graphs, Charts

4th grade - Benjamin P. - 4th

7th grade - Aenghus D. - 3rd (tie)

7th grade - Harrison K. - 5th

8th grade - Joann N. - 1st *

8th grade - John N. - 5th (tie)

Mathematics

2/3rd grade - Donte T. - 1st *

4th grade - Gabby L. - 5th

5th grade - Austin G. - 1st *

5th grade - Jeremiah B. - 2nd *

7th grade - Anish K. - 2nd *

8th grade - Minh Khanh P. - 1st *

Dictionary Skills

4/5th grade - Genevieve B. - 3rd

4/5th - Kaitlyn M. - 4th

4/5th - Nathan S. - 5th

6/7/8th grade - Emily S. - 1st *

6/7/8th grade - Paige V. - 4th (tie)

6/7/8th grade - Chloe K. - 6th

On-Site Drawing

6th grade - Jake R. - 6th

8th grade - Emily S. - 2nd *

8th grade - Kevin N. - 4th

Calculator Applications

6/7/8th grade - Alonso T. - 5th

Science

6th grade - Manuela B. - 6th

7th grade - Emilio R. - 2nd (tie) *

8th grade - Minh Khanh P. - 2nd *

Family Update: We love getting updates from our alumni. We especially love getting updates from the entire family! Following are just a few of the things that the G-R. family has been up to during the past several years:

Erik G-R. '04 attended high school for two years at Jesuit College Preparatory School and two years at John Paul II High School. He then attended Georgetown University in Washington DC, and played soccer for the Division I Georgetown Hoyas. He graduated in 2012 with a B.Sc. Degree in Mathematics. He then graduated in 2014 from SMU with a Master of Science Degree in Operations Research (applied math in the school of Engineering). Erik has been working for Ericsson in Plano, Sweden, and Hong Kong as a Big Data Analyst.

Alina G-R. '05 attended Ursuline Academy of Dallas. She played select soccer all her eligible years (including for the USA Olympic Developing Program and Ursuline Academy). She went to college at Stanford University in Northern California, and played Division I soccer for the Stanford Cardinals (NCAA champions). She graduated in 2013 with a

8th grade - Dillon H. - 5th

Modern Oratory

8th grade - Charlie S. - 1st *

Impromptu Speaking

7/8th grade - Mary Kate M. - 3rd

7/8th grade - Zosia S. - 4th

7/8th grade - Declan W. - 5th

3rd Grade Handwriting Competition: Our third grade classes recently tested their handwriting skills to determine who will represent St. Mark at the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. Congratulations to Donte T. who qualified as St. Mark's representative!

(photo removed)

History Bee: The following students qualified to take part in the Regional History Bee: Antonio M., Minh-Khanh P., Aenghus D., Luis R. and Justus B. The tournament was held on March 14 in Southlake. Congratulations to Aenghus D. who made it to the 7th grade final, and to Antonio M. and Minh-Khanh P. who made it to the 8th grade final. Special congratulations to Antonio M. who WON the 8th grade division! Our three finalists also qualified for the National Final. Way to go, students!

(photo removed)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

B.Sc. Degree in Biology (pre-medicine). She played professional soccer for 1 year (2013-2014) in Frankfurt, Germany and has played for the Mexican Women's National Football (soccer) team from age 17 until the present (attending World Cups in Germany and Canada, as well as tournaments around the world). In 2014 she joined Texas A&M Baylor School of Dentistry in Dallas, where she is enrolled in her 4th semester to become a dentist.

Kristian G-R. '07 attended Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas. He played select soccer all his eligible years (including Jesuit Soccer). He then attended Davidson College near Charlotte in North Carolina, and played Division I soccer for the Davidson Wildcats. He graduated in 2015 with a B.Sc. Degree in Mathematics. He is currently enrolled at SMU's School of Engineering, planning to complete his Master of Science Degree in Operations Research (and applied math) in May 2016. He has accepted a job offer at Citi Group in Irving as a newly hired college trainee in their Information Technology (IT) organization starting in July.

We are so proud to say that all of these alumni began

their educations right here at St. Mark!

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Baby News! PreK-3 teacher Megan Oliver and family welcomed Riley Mae Oliver to the world on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:19 PM. Not wanting to inconvenience anyone, baby Riley allowed mom to finish out the school day before making her grand entrance! She is 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 20.25" long. This also means that Mrs. O'Connor has a new grandbaby. Congratulations to the entire family!

(photo removed)

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