



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

March 24, 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders

What's Happening in Lionland
Plan Ahead: 4 Day Weekend in April
Save the Date: St. Mark S.T.E.M. Fair
Catholic Daughters Scholarship
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
Home and School Association (HSA) News
News from the Athletics Department
St. Mark Parish 50th Anniversary Celebrations
Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Bingo Knight
Holy Trinity Seminary
French Masses at Cistercian
From the NET Team
Catholic High School Summer Programs
JPII Cardinal Belles Junior Clinic
Soles 4 Souls Shoe Collection
In Alumni News...
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark

REMINDERS

TODAY, Thursday, March 24:

-Holy Thursday

-3rd quarter ends

-12:00 NOON, Early Dismissal



**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!



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

-STEM Fair Pizza Orders Due to the School (details below)

Thursday, March 31:

-Report cards sent home

Friday, April 1:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 5th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-New student paperwork & registration fees due

PLAN AHEAD: 4 DAY WEEKEND IN APRIL



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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



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.**

Because we did not use the inclement weather days that are built into our school calendar, we will have a 4-day weekend in April. Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25 are now school holidays. Enjoy!

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are offering a \$500 scholarship for an 8th grader entering a local Catholic high school. More information on this scholarship, and others, is available by [clicking here](#).

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

AT&T
Fujitsu
IBM
Intel
Raytheon

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 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.

Texas Instruments
The University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Dallas

DINNER

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

If you plan to order pizza, please be sure to get your orders in by March 30. [Click here for more details.](#)

A Dippin' Dots truck will also be on site!

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.

Questions? Contact
pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

We are honored to have John Paul II High School students **Allison Noe '14** and Natalie Jenkins (2014 graduate of Prince of Peace Catholic School), serve as the event Co-Chairs.



IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

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

HELP NEEDED:

PK-5th Grade Memory Book Pictures:

Preschool-5th grade Memory Book pictures are needed. If you have pictures of Preschool-5th grade students, please download them directly to the memory book website (school activities,

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: Today, 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.



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!

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2016-17

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited

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

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 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.

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

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 Open

Youth 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 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.

ST. MARK PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

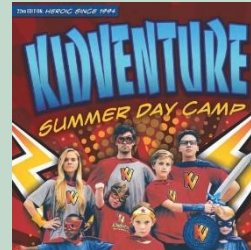


ST. MARK
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH



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>. 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

Join us at the following events as we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our parish.

HISTORY OF ST. MARK FROM A DIOCESAN PERSPECTIVE - April 16, 2016, 10:00 AM, Great Hall of the Parish Center

We are pleased to announce that Steve Landregan, Historian and Archivist for the Dallas Diocese, will be joining us for a presentation on the history of St. Mark from a Diocesan perspective. Steve is the former Editor of *The Texas Catholic* and author of numerous historical books. Coffee and danish will be served.

FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND - APRIL 23-24, 2016

Mark your calendars for St. Marks' **50th Anniversary Fellowship Weekend**. A breakfast of pancakes and sausage with beverages is available after the 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 10:30 AM Masses. A lunch/dinner of hamburgers, hot hogs, chips and beverages will be served after the Saturday 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM, and the Sunday 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM Masses. **Meal tickets must be purchased in advance.** Cost for all meals is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. There will also be scheduled entertainment by many of our own St. Mark parishioners throughout the weekend. **You may purchase your meal tickets for the Fellowship Weekend during the weekends of April 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17 (cash or check only).**

FEAST OF ST. MARK - 50th CELEBRATION MASS - April 25, 2016

Our celebration will wrap-up on Monday, April 25. The Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, D.D., will celebrate our "Feast of St. Mark 50th Anniversary Mass" on April 25, 2016 at 6:30 PM, followed by a reception in our Bethany Narthex. The concelebrants for this Mass will be Fr. Cliff Smith, our current priests, as well as our

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.**



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Varsity Track Meeting: Head Coach Dupuis will hold a Varsity Track Parent Meeting at the JP II campus stadium on Tuesday, March 29 from 6:00-6:30 PM. There will be a short practice immediately afterwards.

First JV Track Meet: Saturday, April 2 at JP II

IMPACT Testing: The next IMPACT baseline concussion

homegrown priests, Fr. Jason Cargo, Fr. James Yamauchi, and Fr. John Szatkowski. Father Cliff said it perfectly: "We come together this month to celebrate who we are and what our faith community means: what it was, what it is now, and what it will become."

Please mark your calendars and join us for our special Golden Anniversary Celebration.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Easter Bunny Visits Pre-K & Kindergarten: On Tuesday, our Pre-K and Kindergarten students had a visit from the Easter Bunny during lunch. He even passed out special Easter eggs!

(photo removed)

Jesuit Drama Troupe Visit: Our 5th-8th grade classes enjoyed a visit from the Jesuit College Preparatory School Drama Troupe on Wednesday. These high school seniors write their own plays and present them to middle school students around our area. They teach important life lessons, but in a humorous way.



LLS Pasta Party: Congratulations to Mrs. Ehnis' 3rd grade class. Their classroom raised the most money (\$1,628.17) during our February "Laps for Leukemia" fundraiser benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and won a pasta lunch from Olive Garden!

testing will take place on April 5 at 3:30 PM in the Computer Lab. If you'd like your child to participate, please make an appointment by [clicking here](#). Future dates are also available.



Upcoming Raising Cane's Fundraisers Benefitting the Athletics Department:

-Today, March 24, 2016

-April 8, 2016

(Tentative) Rising 5th Grade Parent Meeting for School Sports: Attention all rising 5th grade parents! Is your student interested in participating on a St. Mark sports team next year? This is the meeting for you! We have tentatively scheduled a parent information meeting for Thursday, April 14. Once finalized, we will be in touch with the time and location, but for now, please mark your calendar.



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 for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM: April 3rd, 17th, 24th; May 1st

(photo removed)

Living Stations of the Cross: Today, our 8th grade students presented their annual Living Stations of the Cross depicting Jesus' fateful journey to his crucifixion. Special thanks to school parents Claudine Humphries, Claire Morgan, Camille Semprun, Louise Gannon, and Mimi Naquin for assisting the 8th graders, to Mrs. Corsi for providing the music, and to Father Cliff who made all new costumes for the students this year and helped with direction. It is always a moving and meaningful event, and this year was no exception.

(photos removed)

New Mural Graces our Halls: Ms. Tammy, art teacher extraordinaire, has created a new "Noah's Ark" mural for the 1st grade hallway. Next time you're on campus, be sure to check it out!



1st Grade Play: A few of our 1st grade students had the opportunity to perform their "Where Are My Animal Friends?" play for Mrs. Opon and Ms. Steinkirchner last Friday. They did a wonderful job reading their lines from their reading books,

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

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: April 17, and May 15.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRO-LIFE BINGO KNIGHT



The K of C Santa Maria Council 6065 from St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church invites you to their "Bingo Knight" benefitting pro-life charities and numerous other Knights projects.

**Saturday April 2, 2016
6:30 PM in the Cafetorium**

and they also created a wonderful backdrop scene and pictures of their characters.

(photo removed)

2nd Grade Opens Donut Business: Our 2nd grade students learned about opening a business -- a donut business, that is -- in Junior Achievement on Monday. They discussed goods, services and quality control, then they got to enjoy the fruits of their labor!

(photo removed)

2nd Grade Flat Stanley: Our 2nd grade class is reading "Flat Stanley." They are each sending their own "Flat Stanleys" out into the world and using the basic letter writing skills they have learned in class. They even learned a song to help them remember the basic parts of a letter. Ask your 2nd grader to sing it for you!

(photo removed)

8th Grade Spanish: Our 8th grade Spanish classes were challenged to watch a "Senor Wooly" video and then re-enact it, including the Spanish dialog. Our students impressed, both in their dramatic capabilities, as well as their impeccable Spanish pronunciation! "Senor Wooly" is a series of educational Spanish language videos geared towards middle school students.

(photo removed)

**We wish our entire
St. Mark community a blessed
and very
Happy Easter!**

Pre-register by March 31, 2016.
\$25 online at www.kofc-6065.org, or \$30 at the door.
Must be 21 years old. To become a table sponsor or make a donation, contact Mike Bernatis at mbernatis@msn.com.

Come to win!
Grand Prize is a \$600 VISA Gift Card!
Bring a new Baby Shower Gift for a free additional Bingo card for the grand prize!

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer camps for kids of all ages. As we receive their brochures, we will make them available in the school lobby, or you can click below to learn more:

[Bishop Lynch High School](#)

[Cistercian Preparatory School](#)

[Jesuit College Preparatory School](#)

[John Paul II High School](#)


[Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

JPII CARDINAL BELLES JUNIOR CLINIC



**CARDINAL BELLES
JUNIOR CLINIC**

Taught by the 2015 TAPPS State Champion Cardinal Belles
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016
9 AM - 12 PM



For girls ages 5 - 14 years old. Participants will:




- Learn dance and kick technique and a fun routine
- Receive a commemorative Junior Belle Clinic T-shirt
- Perform the Junior Clinic routine in the 2016 Cardinal Belle Spring Show on April 30 at 7 PM

COST: \$40 PER DANCER

Register and Pay Online at:
johnpaulihs.org/johnpaul/drill-team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 8, 2016

Questions? Call 469-299-5153
Held at John Paul II High School | 900 Coit Road | Plano, TX 75075



IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Alumni Family Endures Great Loss and Sets Example: As many of you may already know, **Mary E. '09** was tragically killed in a car accident in February. Mary was a unique individual, a wonderful daughter and sister, and she touched many lives in her 21 years. She was a bright light during her years at St. Mark, and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family. Her sister, **Grace E. '12**, current senior at Bishop Lynch High School, took part in a mission trip over spring break with other BL students to Costa Rica. While it was an amazing experience, she almost cancelled her trip when Mary passed away. However, because Mary was proud of and encouraged Grace's

mission work, this motivated Grace to continue on with the trip. This is Grace's second mission trip out of the country. Her first one was over spring break in 2015 to Ecuador. Her first trip was a life changing experience for her, and this is where her love for mission work began. According to her mother, Grace will very likely have many more mission trips in her future, and we at St. Mark are so proud of her determination to continue serving others, even in the face of such great personal tragedy. Please continue to pray for the family, and may God bless them.

Congratulations to **Mary W. '13** who has been named Captain of the John Paul II High School Cardinal Belles drill team for 2016-17.

Tristan S. '12, current senior at Bishop Lynch High School, was recognized at the Lay Witnesses for Christ Christian Athlete of the Year banquet in Dallas. He was among the 70 student-athletes from more than 3,700 nominees to receive an invitation to the event. Tristan has signed to play football at Illinois State University.

SOLES 4 SOULS SHOE COLLECTION

Isabella, a 13-year-old St. Mark parishioner, is hosting a shoe

drive for the needy. Her goal is to collect 1,000 pairs of gently used shoes of any kind and size during the period of March 20-April 24, which will be donated to the non-profit organization [Soles4souls](#). As you do your spring cleaning and clear out your closets, please consider bringing your unwanted shoes to Mrs. O'Connor's office during this time period.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

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www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610