



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**March 4, 2016**

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**LION PRIDE!**

## REMINDERS

**Monday, March 7-Friday, March 11:**  
-Spring Break - No School for Students

**Sunday, March 13:**  
-Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Monday, March 14:**  
-St. Mark Spirit Day (details below)



**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!**

-Spring Enrichment Clubs Begin (details below)

-Popcorn Sale Benefitting Middle School Yearbook (March 14-17) - (details below)

**Friday, March 18:**

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 6th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

**Sunday, March 20:**

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

**STUDENT & CLASS PICTURE ORDERS**

Individual student spring pictures, as well as class pictures, were sent home with students this week. **You will receive actual pictures, not proofs.**

For individual pictures, please follow the instructions on the envelope to place your order (online or via the order form). Unwanted pictures must be returned to the school.

For class pictures, only students who were present on class picture day will receive one. There is a separate order form for the class picture. Unwanted pictures must be returned to the school.

All picture orders/returns are due to the school on March 15.

**ENRICHMENT CLUBS BEGIN AFTER SPRING BREAK**

Spring Enrichment Clubs will begin Monday, March 14, the day we return from Spring Break. All students received their first club choice and should make plans to attend.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND**



**Vocations**

**Chalice:** 6th 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

## ST. MARK SPIRIT DAY!

Monday, March 14 is St. Mark **Spirit Day!** Students may wear a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing (this includes any shirt with the St. Mark name, including Field Day shirts). These may be worn with jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, or the school pants. Students may wear any closed shoe. (Sweatpants, leggings, shorts, caps/accessories, and solid green/gold shirts without the St. Mark name are not permitted.) Please follow the dress policy as written. No exceptions. For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the homepage of our [website](#).

## POPCORN SALE BENEFITTING MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

**Plan Ahead!** The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) the week we return from Spring Break! Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Monday, March 14 and Thursday, March 17. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, or Salsa. Order extra bags for gifts or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on March 21. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 3/14-17. Please help support the middle school yearbook elective and enjoy a tasty treat!

## FIRST GRADE PARENT/SACRAMENT MEETING

**First Grade Parents: Save the Date!** There will be a parent meeting on April 18 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center to discuss the Sacraments of

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 14-25. 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.

First Reconciliation and First Communion, which your student will receive during the 2016-17 school year. Parents only; children need not attend.

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



**SAVE THE DATE -- NOTE  
REVISED START TIME!**

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

Friday, April 8, 2016  
5:30-8:00 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 50 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

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

**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 25



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!

Food and entertainment details are in the works, so plan on making a night of it with your family!

Questions? Contact [pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net](mailto:pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net).

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



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### 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](mailto:ebakerhrw@yahoo.com).

### **PK-5th Grade Memory Book Pictures:**

Preschool-5th grade Memory Book pictures are needed. If you have pictures of Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> 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



APRIL

**WATCH D.O.G.S. SIGN-UPS NOW AVAILABLE**

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

**APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE**

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? The 2016-17 application for new students is now available online at [www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net).

**\*We have new "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.**

**NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"**

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](http://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.

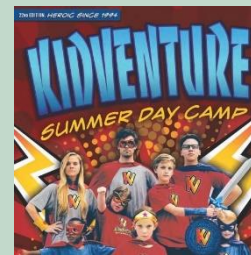


**Box Tops:** Keep sending in those Box Tops. 3rd grade is leading the competition and 4th grade is in second place. The deadline for the competition is Friday, April 22. The class with the most Box Tops will win a free dress day on Thursday, April 28!

**FROM THE NET TEAM**

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>. Click to select your

# 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 to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal.

## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

**Junior Youth & Government:** St. Mark students recently attended and competed at the YMCA Junior Youth & Government State Conference in Austin. It was attended by nearly 700 students from around the state of Texas. St. Mark students participated in the legislative branch of Youth & Government by writing and debating their own bills. Sarah H. was a chair and Angela M. was her clerk. Gio P. was also a chair and Thomas W. was his clerk. Students also visited our Capitol and debated in committees on Saturday. Pictured below are Angela M., Sarah H., Breigh P. (former student), Katie S., C.J. W., Gio P., and Thomas

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

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is still in need of

W. The YMCA Junior Youth & Government program teaches young people the democratic process while fostering the importance of leadership and civic duty. It is open to students in sixth through eighth grade. Please contact [Kelly Smith](#), Advisor, with any questions, or [click here](#).

(photo removed)

**Radio Commentator:** St. Mark got some great publicity on Monday as 6th grader, C.J. W., was featured as a commentator on the "On Point with JP and Dr. B" radio show on 620 AM. He was interviewed about the St. Mark Junior Youth & Government trip to the Capitol in Austin last weekend.

(photo removed)

**Acts of Mercy:** The 2016 St. Mark Missions Theme is ACTS OF MERCY: A 3 Evening Drama Mission. It is based on the Gospel of John: Signs of Mercy; the Gospel of Luke: Stories of Mercy, and the Letters of James: Works of Mercy. The message is to understand the signs, stories, and acts of mercy as giving us direction in how to live our lives and relationships. Our middle school students enjoyed an opportunity to hear one of the presentations. The presenter, Frank Runyeon, has received national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 20 years. He is still an actor who is currently acting in films, TV shows and on the New York stage. He is a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in Religion and American Studies. He also holds a Masters degree in Theology. He is a cradle Catholic. In a reference to *The Wizard of Oz*, he talked to our students about the "man behind the curtain," and how in real life, we need to realize that what we see, isn't necessarily representative of the truth. For example, the ultimate goal of a

**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!

### JPII RAFFLE

John Paul II High School is conducting a tuition raffle and is sharing it with our St. Mark community. The raffle winner may choose **either** an \$18,000 VISA gift card or a year's tuition to JP II. JP II will also pay the withholding tax for the raffle winner. Anyone 18 years or older can enter the raffle and tickets are only \$10 a piece. The winning ticket will be drawn at the JP II annual gala and auction on April 2. The winner does not need to be present to win. Please [click here](#) for more details.

### 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



television show is not to entertain you or to show you the truth about life, but rather to hold your attention through commercials (where they make their money). The same holds true for the news. The weather is the one news segment that applies to everyone. That's why it is always shown after the third commercial break. The preceding news stories must continue to hold your attention through the commercials so you will keep watching, and many times, they aren't important stories, but contain a lot of "hype." The overall message is to seek God's guidance to help you decipher the truth in life.



**Read Across America:** On Thursday, our students participated in the National Education Association's "Read Across America" event, a reading motivational and awareness program that recognizes Dr. Seuss' birthday. Students celebrated by wearing "crazy hats" to school. At 9:45 AM, we all "stopped, dropped, and read" a book. They also received Dr. Seuss bookmarks, and enjoyed "green eggs and ham" in the cafeteria!

AM. Upcoming dates: March 20, April 17, and May 15.

### IN ALUMNI NEWS...

**John Paul II Students Earn Gold in Art:** The Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) sponsored by the Texas Art Education Association was held this past Saturday at Williams High School in Plano. 34 public and private high schools competed. Congratulations to **Courtney J. '12** and **Joseph B. '12** who both earned gold medals in their divisions.

**Alum Helps UA Reclaim State Soccer Championship:** **Casey B. '13** is a member of the Ursuline Academy of Dallas Varsity soccer team that won the 2016 TAPPS Girls State Soccer Championship this week. In 2015, the team broke their 24 year winning streak when they lost the championship to rival Bishop Lynch High School, but this year, they took it back!

**Sami C. '10**, a graduate of Bishop Lynch High School, has been named Chief Copy Editor for The University of Oklahoma newspaper during her junior year.

**John Paul II Academic Decathlon Team:** Congratulations to **Eric N. '12** and **Dylan C. '14** who recently



(photo removed)

**1st Grade Inventions:** First grade did a S.T.E.M. project this week where they were challenged to invent something, write about it, present it, and discuss ways they could have improved on it. From gloves with built-in sponges, to a Swiss Army necklace featuring items that a woman needs every day, to all-natural, banana shampoo, our students proved they are truly the inventors of tomorrow!

(photo removed)

**2nd Grade Tortillas:** Ruben Mendoza, one of the treasured members of our maintenance staff, spent time with our 2nd graders last week, showing them how to make tortillas. They read a story entitled, "The First Tortilla," and it was so much fun to see them being made in real life, and then getting to taste them!



competed as members of the JPII Academic Decathlon team at the State Competition in San Antonio. The team is now the Small School State Champions!



**Piano Success:** 5th grader, Theresa T., recently came in 6th place in the Dallas Symphonic Piano Competition, and also received a gold trophy in the Junior Pianists Guild Concerto Division (Concerto in A, K.488, mvt. I by Mozart).

### **6th Grade Girls D2 Gold Team Wins Championship!**

Congratulations to the girls D2 Gold basketball team! They went undefeated this year and won their final game by a score of 17-5. Team members are: Veronica J., Ann T., Emily J., Allison G., Savannah H., Anupa M., Marielma G., and Kendell K. Also pictured below are members of the D2 Green team, Lauren D., Becca L. and Paige V., who came to the championship game to support the gold team. Coaches are Ron and Victoria J., and Jane J. Special

**3rd Grade Fossils:** On Tuesday, our 3rd grade science classes had fun "digging" for fossils!

(photo removed)

**8th Grade Studies Newton's Law:** On Monday, our 8th graders celebrated Leap Day by studying Newton's Law, force, and motion. They sent space shuttle balloons "leaping" into the air!

(photo removed)

**Respect Life Club:** The RLC topic this month was Respect for the Differently Abled. The Baula family returned for a visit and gave an update on their beautiful daughter who was born with Trisome 13. Deacon Charlie and Melissa Waldon, MS, from the Disabilities and Catechesis to Persons with Special Needs Department of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas spoke with the middle school students. Deacon Charlie has an adult sister with Downs Syndrome.

(photo removed)

**Party With the Librarian:** Some lucky students got to spend time this week with Mrs. Hollenbeck, our school librarian. They enjoyed cookies, milk and a special story time. This "teacher package" is another item that was up for bid at the Sweethearts Gala & Auction held in February.

(photo removed)

thanks to the 6th grade boys D1 team, and their coaches, Rick L. and Eric L. They scrimmaged with the girls this season and really helped them to prepare!

(photo removed)

**7th Grade Boys DPL Champs!** Our 7th grade boys D2 basketball team also won their 2016 DPL Championship game! They took on St. Thomas at a packed Jesuit gymnasium. Many fans were in attendance, which made for an electric atmosphere! The game was a nail-biter with the Loins coming out on top, 30-29. Players are Anish K., Michael L., Harrison K., Jimmy E., Justus B., Bobby V., Sebastian R., Luis R., Daniel B., Jack B., and Nick C. Coaches are Jeremy B., Todd B., and James E., and Team Mom is Heather C. The boys worked wonderfully as a team, which contributed to the only D2 boys team going undefeated this season!

(photos removed)

**Ann Rossigno Receives Bishop's Award for Service:** Congratulations to school parent, Ann Rossigno, who was one of two recipients of this award from St. Mark Catholic Church. The Bishop's Award for Service to the

Church was inaugurated in 2012 to recognize the great work and true sacrifice made by lay men and women in the Diocese of Dallas. Nominated by their pastor, parish administrator or diocesan staff member, recipients of this award are practicing Catholics, exemplary volunteers, and known for their public witness to the Catholic faith. While at St. Mark, Ann has served on the parish Finance Council for eight years, in addition to serving on the Fall Festival committee, the auction committee, as a Junior Achievement volunteer, an elective teacher, a volleyball coach, and as a Eucharistic Minister. We are so thankful for her service to our community and are so pleased that it has been recognized by the Bishop.



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