



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 13, 2016

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**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!



LION PRIDE!

REMINDERS

Monday, May 16 - Thursday, May 19:
-8th grade final exams

Wednesday, May 18:
-8:30 AM, Church: Special Mass celebration for the 20th anniversary of Fr. Cliff's Ordination; parent reception immediately following in the Narthex (details below)

Thursday, May 19:
-Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details below)

Friday, May 20:
-8:30 AM, Church, All School Mass: The Mass will be presented by the 6th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-9:30 AM, Cafetorium: Newcomer Welcome Coffee

BE SURE YOUR SCHOOL FEES ARE CURRENT

As we near the end of the school year, please be reminded that all school fees must be paid in order for students to participate in end-of-the-year activities including Graduation and Field Day. Fees include library, cafeteria, textbooks, and other school fees. If you need to verify outstanding fees, please contact Annette Vela at Annette.vela@stmcs.net.

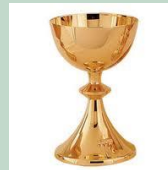
PLANNING FOR 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

We have received several questions regarding the 2016-17 school year including when school supplies will be



Nominate Someone for a Work of Heart Award: Do you know a St. Mark teacher or staff member who goes "above and beyond" for our school community? If so, consider nominating him or her for a Work of Heart Award. Presented by The Catholic Foundation, these awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. For more information about the Work of Heart award, or to submit a nomination, [click here](#). 37 St. Mark staffers have received this award since its inception in 2005.

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.



Zeal: 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

ordered, when the prefecting calendar will be available, etc. Please stay tuned, as we will be sending a packet to all current school families during the week of May 23 which includes all of the information you need to know for the 2016-17 school year.

2016-17 UNIFORM GUIDELINES & ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS JUNE SALE

Uniform guidelines for the 2016-17 school year are available on our school website by [clicking here](#). Please note that the green pant/walking short options, as well as the timeframe for phasing them out, are also indicated on the guideline sheets. There will be no sweater pre-orders this year. Academic Outfitters will stock sweaters and vests that are pre-embroidered with the school logo for our families.

[Click here](#) for more information about Academic Outfitters' hours, policies, and June 2016 sale.

JOSEPH THE DREAMER VIDEOS AVAILABLE SOON

St. Mark will be offering copies of the *Joseph the Dreamer* middle school musical performance on video. More details, including ordering instructions and pricing, are coming soon.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE ...

ATTENTION! If your student is currently keeping a medication in the nurse's office (including EpiPens, inhalers, prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school. We do not store medication from year to year, so anything that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of.

"Zeal" 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.**

May Project: The May service project is the St. Mark Catholic School Clean Up. Each grade level will participate in caring for our school, parish, and campus during class time.

Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation

Who Benefits? St. Mark Community

Due Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2016



LIFETIME LIONS

Calling all alumni ... join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network! Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for

FROM THE NET TEAM

Join the NET Team for a BBQ and farewell. All are welcome!



SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITY

Beverage Pouch Recycling: Several years ago, one of our students proposed the idea of recycling beverage pouches in the school cafeteria. As a result, a collection bin was placed there, and St. Mark has collected tens of thousands of pouches to-date, keeping them out of landfills. The school has also earned money during the process. Sarah H. managed the project this year. She is graduating this month, and would love to pass this project on to another student or students. The student coordinator takes care of the collection bin located in the cafeteria, and receives help from a family member to ship the pouches off to our recycling company,

service hours. Click [here](#) for more information.

LIONS DEN

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!

LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with school sweaters with no names inside. If your child is missing a sweater, please check with the school office. Items that are unclaimed by the end of the school year are donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING UPDATES

Parents: Summer is the perfect time to update your annual Safe Environment Training. Simply [click here](#) for details. This will ensure that all paperwork will be processed prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and you will be cleared to volunteer at all of our wonderful school activities.

TerraCycle. If your student is interested in picking up where Sarah has left off, please yeek.hui@gmail.com for more details. **This is a very worthwhile and visible project, and one that qualifies for service hours.**



CELEBRATE THE END OF 8TH GRADE FINAL EXAMS AT RAISING CANE'S



Plan to eat at Raising Cane's on May 19 to celebrate the end of 8th grade final exams! Visit anytime on Thursday, May 19 between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage will be donated to the St. Mark Athletic Department. Treat your family, and earn money for our school!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Thursday, June 2: Field Day

MEETING MINUTES:

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

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.

St. Mark Info. Cards: We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general school information. 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"

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!

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY



Order your St. Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a

The minutes from the May 4, 2016 Home and School Association meeting are now available by [clicking here](#).

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 collecting Box Tops over the summer!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES NEXT YEAR

St. Mark offers students many enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities throughout the school year ([click here](#) for more information). One in particular, the Math Counts program, is currently gauging interest for next year:

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.**

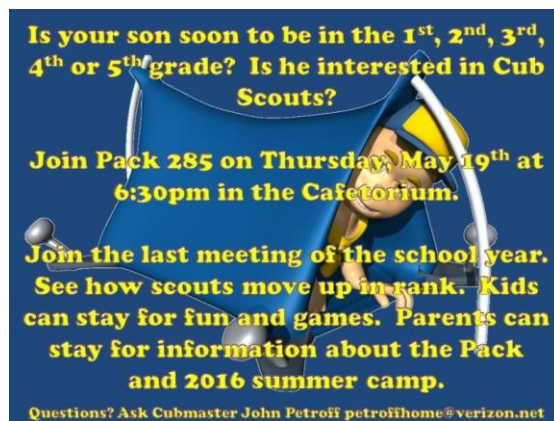
CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. CLIFF'S ORDINATION

Please join us at a special All School Mass on Wednesday, May 18 at 8:30 AM in honor of the 20th anniversary of Father Cliff's ordination into the priesthood. HSA will be hosting a small reception immediately following Mass in the Narthex for parents (students will not attend the reception).

START PLANNING SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!

Math Counts (open to all students in grades 6-8): Students who participate in Math Counts meet weekly to practice advanced math skills, and also compete in national math contests throughout the school year. **Chris B. '13**, current junior at Cistercian Preparatory School, and **Ivanka P. '14**, current sophomore at Ursuline Academy, coordinate the program. If your student is interested in Math Counts for the 2016-17 school year, please contact Ms. Steinkirchner at pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

JOIN CUB SCOUTS



Is your son soon to be in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade? Is he interested in Cub Scouts?

Join Pack 285 on Thursday, May 19th at 6:30pm in the Cafetorium.

Join the last meeting of the school year. See how scouts move up in rank. Kids can stay for fun and games. Parents can stay for information about the Pack and 2016 summer camp.

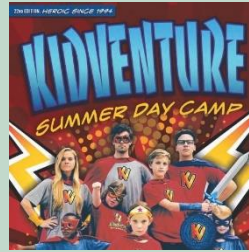
Questions? Ask Cubmaster John Petroff petroffhome@verizon.net

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

First Communion: Our 2nd graders received the Sacrament of First Communion last weekend. It was such a special morning filled with faith and family, officiated by Father Cliff and Father Lauro. Special thanks to our first grade families who organized a lovely reception for our students and their families after Mass.

(photo removed)

Joseph the Dreamer Performance: Bravo, and congratulations to the middle school



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-summercamp/>, or call [214.303.9789](tel:214.303.9789).



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Golf Team Registration Now Open: [Click here](#) for more information about the 16th Annual DPL Golf Classic Student Tournament on June 6, 2016. The registration deadline is May 25, 2016. Contact Athletic Director, Marlene Ehring at

Spring Musical Elective on three fantastic performances of *Joseph the Dreamer*! This play is a new, original musical written and staged by Father Cliff, with music by Music Teacher, Patty Corsi, and St. Mark Music Director, Kenton Kravig. It is a humorous rendition of the Book of Genesis story about Joseph and his brothers, told in way that speaks to children of all ages. The cast played their parts to a tee, and had the audiences from preschool students to adults laughing and applauding. We were honored to have Dr. Matthew Vereecke, Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Dr. Ann Poore, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools, as well as several other representatives from the Catholic Schools Office, our Catholic high schools, and *The Texas Catholic* newspaper in attendance. We are so proud of the fact that our students are able to participate in, and contribute their ideas to, professional-quality productions, thanks to the expertise that Father Cliff lends to our program. From the beautiful costumes and sets to the lighting, stage direction, music and scripts, St. Mark's Fine Arts Department is truly second to none!

(photo removed)

Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cuttings:

Both the Plano and Richardson Chambers of Commerce held Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies at St. Mark this week, recognizing us as a member of their organizations. Chamber members from all over Plano and Richardson visited our campus, learned more about our school, and discussed potential opportunities to work together. Father Cliff, school administration, teachers, our incoming and outgoing Student Council officers, as

marlene.ehring@stmcs.net for assistance with registration. We are in particular need of one 6th grade boy at this time to complete a 6th grade foursome.

Fall 2016 Sports Registration:

Registration for the following 2016 fall sports is now open. Registration fees for each sport are indicated. Please click the links below for more information about each sport.

[Volleyball \(\\$115\)](#) - Registration deadline: Today, May 13, 2016

[Football \(\\$115\)](#) - Registration deadline: May 27, 2016

[Cheerleading \(\\$45\)](#) - The deadline for Varsity Cheer has been extended until Friday, May 27, 2016.

[Cross Country \(\\$70\)](#) - Please note that registration for 2016 Cross Country has been moved back to August. More details will be provided at that time.

2016-17 Volleyball Open Gyms & Team Evaluations:

Open Gyms will be held the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday prior to Team Evaluations on Wednesday. Open Gym sessions are two hours long and include one hour of skills review and one hour of live game drills. Students may attend any or all of the Open Gym sessions, and pre-registration is NOT necessary.

well as our Lion mascot, were on hand for the festivities!



Orchestra Performance: Our Orchestra students gave a wonderful performance after today's Mass. We are so proud of what they have learned this year!

(photo removed)

Band Concert: Our St. Mark band presented their annual end-of-the-year concert to our students, parents and staff on Thursday. It was "standing room only" as they performed a variety of music that we all sang and clapped along to!

(photo removed)

4th Grade Studies Electricity: Our 4th grade students are learning about open and closed circuits in science class. They recently conducted a lab to identify insulators and conductors.

(photo removed)

Team Evaluation sessions take place on Wednesdays, and last for two hours. They are conducted by outside staff and are closed to spectators.

Varsity (Rising 7th/8th Graders)

Open Gym: May 15-17, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

Team Evaluations: May 18, Bacot Gym

-Rising 7th graders: 4:00-6:00 PM
-Rising 8th graders: 6:15-8:15 PM

Junior Varsity (Rising 5th/6th Graders)

Open Gym: May 22-24, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

Team Evaluations: May 25, Bacot Gym

-Rising 5th graders: 4:00-6:00 PM
-Rising 6th graders: 6:15-8:15 PM

Upcoming Athletic Events:

Track & Field: Come out and cheer on your Varsity Track Team on Saturday, May 14 at Bishop Lynch High School (City Meet).

Baseball: Come out and cheer on your LIONS team during the play-offs! Upcoming game:

JV vs. TBA, May 22, 12:00 PM @ Oran Good #2

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

Congratulations to the following alumni who recently received academic and foreign language awards at Ursuline Academy of Dallas:

Casey B. '13 - Gold Award - National Spanish Exam

Caroline D. '13 - Agnes Scott College Book Award; Gold Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

Jenny D. '13 - Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors Award

Elena G. '15 - Physics I Award; Gold Award - National Spanish Exam

Savannah H. '15 - Bronze Award - National Spanish Exam

Hannah K. '13 - Gold Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

Sneha K. '14 - Jesus, Salvation and Church Award

Uyen L. '14 - Concert Choir Award

Nicole M. '14 - Introduction to Computer Science Award; Bronze Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

Celine M. '14 - Introduction to Java Award; Silver Award - National Spanish Exam

Valeria M. '14 - Bronze Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

Ivanka P. '14 - Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors Award; American Mathematics

Softball: Come out and cheer on your LIONS team during the play-offs! Upcoming game:

JV vs. St. Monica, May 15, 1:30 PM
@ Oran Good #3



Upcoming Raising Cane's Fundraisers Benefitting the Athletics Department:

-May 19, 2016 (8th grade finals)
-June 3, 2016

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 date: May 15.

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](#)

Competition 10 Top 3 Scorer and Team Member; Mandarin Chinese II Honors Award; Bronze Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

Elizabeth R. '14 - Bronze Award - Le Grande Concours National French Contest; 3rd Place/Vocabulary - La Fete Francaise Competition

Shannon R. '15 - Introduction to Speech Award

Janice R. '15 - Improvisation Award; Bronze Award - National Spanish Exam

Shelby V. '15 - French I Award; Revelation in Scripture Award

Emily V. '13 - Biology I Honors Award; Morality: Life in Jesus Christ Award; United States History Award; Silver Award - National Spanish Exam

Isabelle V. '13 - Gold Award - HSK Chinese Proficiency Test

AT ST. MARK, WE SERVE.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society:

Congratulations are in order for our entire St. Mark community! We are once again a top fundraising school in North Texas for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year, our Laps for Leukemia fundraiser during Catholic Schools Week, coupled with the recent St. Mark Chipotle Day, raised a total of \$15,317.61, bringing our 8 year total to \$127,937.78! A representative from LLS joined us at Mass this morning to present St. Mark with a "Champions of Change" banner.

[John Paul II High School](#) [Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

BISHOP LYNCH SUMMER BASKETBALL OPPORTUNITY

Bishop Lynch High School is once again offering their Texas Legacy Basketball program this summer with teams competing in select tournaments around the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Texas Legacy Basketball is an opportunity for young athletes who are passionate and committed to the sport of basketball, to be coached by innovative, experienced coaches, play against local competition and learn and improve basketball skills. If you have a 3rd or 4th grade boy that you feel has a genuine interest in the game, please contact Kyle May, Head Boys Basketball Coach, at 214-324-3607, ext. 4115 for more information.

JESUIT SUMMER BASKETBALL OPPORTUNITIES

Jesuit College Preparatory School is offering two unique summer basketball programs, in addition to the Jesuit basketball summer camps offered via the link above:

*Breakfast Club - A twice per week basketball skills session from 7:00-8:00 AM

*Summer Teams - Boys or girls (2nd - 8th grades). Practices at Jesuit. Games at Sportsplex or PSA.



LION PRIDE!

National Quiz Bowl: The National Middle School Quiz Bowl tournament took place in Atlanta this past weekend. Our St. Mark team finished in 13th place out of 160 teams from all over the USA and made it to the playoffs on Sunday! Antonio M. was a tournament All Star, ranking 6th out of 852 students. Team members are: Antonio M.-Captain, Minh-Khanh P., Aenghus D. and Harrison K. Congratulations to all and Go Lions!

(photo removed)

PSIA State Champs: Congratulations to the following St. Mark students who competed at the state level for the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic competition and placed in the top 6 in their categories:

Joann N. - 6th place - Maps, Graphs and Charts - 8th grade

Ethan S. - 3rd place - Spelling - 2nd grade

Emily S. - 3rd place - On-site Drawing - 8th grade

Weekend tournaments for select teams.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Jonathan Alexander, Jesuit Varsity Basketball Assistant, at jalexander@jesuitcp.org.

JESUIT 'LIL RANGERETTE SUMMER CAMP

The Jesuit Rangerettes drill team offers a summer camp for girls in preschool-6th grade. The camp will take place June 20-24 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Jesuit. Please [click here](#) for more information and registration.

DRAMA KIDS SUMMER CAMP



Drama Kids International is now enrolling for summer camps.

Children participate in fun activities that help them think more creatively and learn new acting and confidence-building skills through plays, improvisations, silent scenes, mini-scripts, theater games and more. [Click here](#) for more details. To register, visit dramakids.com/tx3 or call (972) 363-2369.

"BOOK BUDDIES" BOOK DRIVE

Clean out those bookshelves for a good cause! Our Book Drive continues through Friday, May 20 as St. Mark assists Megan, a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School, who is doing a project to complete her Girl Scout Gold

Theresa T. - 2nd place - Number Sense - 5th grade

Donte T. - 5th place - Mathematics - 2nd-3rd grade

Megan W. - 2nd place - Vocabulary - 7th-8th grade

Award. The project involves helping to develop a literacy program called "Book Buddies" at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Plano. St. Andrew's has an active soup kitchen, and the "Book Buddies" program provides books and entertainment for children, teens, and adults as they wait for their number to be called to receive their food. Megan will accept any type of books for all ages (new or used in good condition) including books in Spanish. Please bring your book donations to the school office.

FAITH & GRIEF GROUP

St. Mark Catholic Church is offering a Faith & Grief group, a monthly gathering for women and men grieving the death of a loved one. Come and spend time with others who understand grief and loss and be strengthened by food, fellowship, Scripture, prayer and sharing time. The group gathers on a Wednesday every month in McGivney Hall at the St. Mark Parish Center. Upcoming dates are May 11, June 8, July 13 and August 10 from 12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM. Lunch is free; donations are accepted. Please register at www.faihandgrief.org or call (469-251-9612. For more information, call Ellen Mechler at (972) 208-5393.

Join Our Mailing List

Forward To A Friend

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