



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

NEW STUDENT NEWSLETTER- FALL 2017

Happy Fall to the families of our newest students! We hope you are settling in and that your family is enjoying your first weeks and months at St. Mark. There are many exciting events taking place as we transition into the fall season. As always, you will be seeing this information in other school communications, but we want to be sure our new families feel welcomed and informed about each and every event. Following are some highlights, as well as some tips to assist you.

Important Dates:

October

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| 26 | Fall Pep Rally; Early Dismissal, 12:00 PM; Parent Teacher Conferences |
| 27 | No School: Parent Teacher Conferences |
| 28 | All Souls 1K/5K Run |
| 29 | JV & Varsity Homecoming Games/Tailgate/Chili Cook-off, 12:00 PM, JPII High School |
| 31 | 2nd Grade <i>Spunky Pumpkin</i> Play, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium; Class Halloween Parties |

November

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| 1 | All Saints Day Mass, 8:30 AM; Living Saints presented by 8th grade |
| 2 | SmartLab Dedication Ceremony with Bishop Burns, 8:00 AM, Bacot Gym |
| 5-10 | St. Mark/Scholastic Book Fair |
| 8 | 2nd Grade Reconciliation, 10:00 AM |
| 14 | St. Mark Chipotle Night, 4:00-8:00 PM benefiting the St. Mark Auction |
| 17 | 1st grade <i>The Giving Tree</i> Play, 8:30 AM; Early Dismissal, 12:00 PM |
| 20-24 | No School: Thanksgiving Holidays |
| 30 | Middle School Fall Play: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , 6:30 PM, Cafetorium |

Event Highlights

Home & School Association - Want to volunteer at the school? Contact HSA President Jill Dourty at dourtyj@gmail.com to learn more about the many opportunities available to parents.

Before You Volunteer - Anyone wishing to volunteer at St. Mark must first complete Safe Environment Training and sign a Volunteer Pledge Form ...

Safe Environment Training - Prior to volunteering at St. Mark, all volunteers must complete Safe Environment Training, which is required by the Diocese of Dallas. [Click here](#) for details.

Volunteer Handbook - Please read the [St. Mark Volunteer Handbook](#) and sign the Volunteer Pledge Form on the last page. The form must be submitted to the school office prior to the first day of volunteering.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - This is your opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss academic progress and conduct performance during the first quarter. Please be sure to arrive on time for your conference.

All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Run - Join us for our 4th Annual All Souls Remembrance Run on Saturday, October 28 on the St. Mark campus. This event benefits our Athletics Department. There will be a 1K "fun run" starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome in both categories. 5K registration includes a commemorative t-shirt, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. Personalize your race t-shirt as you run in memory of a loved one for All Souls Day, a day designated for lifting up prayers for the departed in our Catholic tradition. [Click here](#) to be taken to the registration page. There are also many volunteer positions and sponsorships available, as well as service hours for middle school students. Contact Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net for more information.

Tip: Participating in the All Souls Run is a great way to meet other families, and for the kids to socialize with their friends. It is open to EVERYONE, including kids. The 8:00 AM 1K is a run/walk event that anyone can do. It's also a great time to volunteer, and middle school students can earn service hours.

Homecoming Tailgate & Chili Cook-Off - The inaugural St. Mark Homecoming Tailgate and Chili Cook-Off is just around the corner! Be sure you have your LION spirit ready to cheer on our football teams and your secret chili recipe ready to compete! As a reminder, the action starts Sunday, October 29 at the John Paul II High School field with the JV football team taking the field at 12:00 NOON, the Chili Cook-Off starting at 1:00 PM near the tailgating area, and the Varsity football game directly following at 2:00 PM. If you will be entering the Chili Cook-Off competition, please RSVP through the [Facebook event](#) page. Mark your calendars now so you will have the best seat in the house to cheer with the rest of the Lion Pride and sample some of the award-winning chilis!

Halloween Classroom Parties - Each grade level has a Halloween party. Room Parents plan and run these parties. Due to space limitations in the classrooms, only students and Room Parents are able to attend. Preschool, TK, and Kindergarten students are allowed to wear a costume. Please dress them in an appropriate and comfortable costume to be worn all day at school (no toy swords, guns, etc.). Students in grades 1-8 may pay \$2.00 and wear a super hero t-shirt or costume (proceeds benefit Student Council).

SmartLab Dedication Ceremony - Join Bishop Burns as he officially dedicates the St. Mark SmartLab on November 2 at 8:00 AM in the Bacot Gym. St. Mark is one of only a few schools in Texas to have this facility on campus and it's an honor to have it blessed by the Bishop. We hope to see you there!

Scholastic Book Fair - Each fall, St. Mark holds a Scholastic Book Fair in the Lions Lair Gym that benefits the School Library. Students visit the Book Fair with their class at a designated time each day. This year, the Book Fair will take place Sunday, November 5 through Friday, November 10. Check the school website for details - www.stmcs.net/book-fair. In the meantime, here is a general overview of how it works:

Student Wish Lists - Students will visit the Book Fair on Friday, November 3 to preview books and create a "wish list" to bring home for their parents to review. Parents can choose books from that list and return it to school with cash or a check to make purchases. Please remember to add 8.25% sales tax to the cost of all Book Fair items.

Teacher Wish Lists - There is an opportunity to purchase books specifically for your child's classroom. Teachers create a wish list of books and these can be viewed and purchased at the Book Fair. If you choose to purchase a book, a bookplate with your family name will be placed inside the cover of the book.

Shopping - Parents are welcome to shop at the Book Fair at any time of day during Book Fair hours. Stop by the front office to sign in and then come back and shop! (Please note that students may only visit the Book Fair during their scheduled class time each day. Parents are welcome to shop at those times. A schedule is available on the website.)

Family Day - November 5, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - This is a great opportunity for families to shop together. Books for all ages, required grade-level reading, NY Times bestsellers, pencils and bookmarks will be available. Stop by and get a headstart on your Christmas shopping.

Pastries For Parents - November 8, 7:15 AM - 4:00 PM - Parents may visit the Book Fair beginning right after morning drop-off and enjoy complimentary pastries as they shop!

Popcorn For Parents - November 9, 5:30 PM - Parents may enjoy complimentary popcorn as they shop! The Book Fair will be open late for convenience.

Poster Contest - Students may participate in the annual Book Fair Poster Contest. Ribbons are awarded for the winning posters at each grade level.

Tip: Parents may volunteer to work shifts at the Book Fair where they assist students. This is particularly fun to do during your child's class visits. Check the website mentioned above for the class visit schedule.

Middle School Fall Play - Each fall and spring, our Middle School Theater Production electives present a spectacular stage performance to our community. Father Cliff assists Music Teacher Patty Corsi with teaching this class to our students. Don't miss these one-of-a-kind productions. This fall, students will present *A Christmas Carol* on November 30. The evening performance begins at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium.

Did You Know?

Did you know that you can have lunch with your child any day of the week? Simply sign-in at the school office and pick up a Visitor Badge. There are tables at the back of the Cafeteria designated for family lunches.

For more information about any of our fall events, visit our website at www.stmcs.net. As always, please feel free to contact your Host Family or the school office if you have additional questions. Let us know if we can be of further assistance in any way.

Enjoy your fall,

The St. Mark Staff

St. Mark Catholic School is a two-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award. This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.



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