



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

February 12, 2016

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REMINDERS

Monday, February 15:
-President's Day: No School for Students

Tuesday, February 16 - Thursday, February 18:



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!

-Popcorn sale benefitting Middle School Yearbook Elective (details below)

Wednesday, February 17:

-Teacher Luncheon, hosted by PK & 5th Grade

Friday, February 19:

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

-Re-Enrollment for 2016-17 due (details below)

-New student applications due

-1:30 PM, Cafetorium: JP II Musical Theater Presentation of the "Jungle Book"

Sunday, February 21:

-6:00 PM, St. Mark Church: St. Mark Children's Choir Sings at Mass



Our 2016 Sweethearts Gala & Auction is one for the history books, and the record books! It was a sight to see at the Marriott Legacy Town Center on Saturday night as hundreds of St.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 8th 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.



Honesty:

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 "Honesty" 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.**

Mark families and friends packed the ballroom in support of our school. Fellowship and fundraising were the themes of the evening as everyone enjoyed mingling with fellow parents and parishioners, drinks, dinner, dancing, and frenzied bidding on the fabulous auction packages, class baskets and class crafts. Our net proceeds are nearing \$100,000, and we'll report final numbers in a few weeks. It all goes towards our efforts to enhance our campus gymnasium and playground facilities.

Our Auction Committee deserves our most sincere thanks for their hard work and dedication which resulted in this most successful evening, as do the countless parents and friends of St. Mark who donated time, talent, money, and goods towards this effort. It was simply an amazing evening with an amazing result. The best part? Our students will soon enjoy the benefits!

As a thank you to all of our event attendees, we've compiled lots of fun photos from the evening. [Click here](#) to access them. Happy downloading!

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2016-17 CONTINUES

Re-registration for the 2016-17 school year continues through February 19. A separate email from Business Manager, Annette Vela, was sent to all current school families last week. It contains complete details and instructions. Details are also available on the [school website](#).

CAFETERIA PROGRAM CHANGES

We are announcing a few changes to the cafeteria program, effective March 1, 2016:

BECAUSE OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROJECTS WILL OVERLAP SLIGHTLY, WE'RE INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT BOTH BELOW:

January Project: Laps for Leukemia

St. Mark has consistently been a top fundraising school for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in North Texas. Last year, we raised \$17,000 and we hope to top that amount this year.

During Catholic Schools Week, students will walk laps during P.E. classes to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Pledge sheets will be distributed to students by P.E. coaches. Students can obtain pledges based on the number of laps they walk. (All students will walk laps, but pledges/donations are not mandatory.) A Pledge Sheet will be completed and returned to school by each student, along with any pledge money collected.

Online Donations - New for 2016:

Donations can also be made directly online by [clicking here](#), giving out of town family/friends a convenient way to donate. Online donations will be credited to St. Mark's total funds raised.

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person

Who Benefits? Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Due Date: Laps will be completed at school during the week of February 1. Pledge sheets and money are due to classroom teachers by February 19.

1. Beginning March 1, the price of a plate lunch will increase by 5 cents, and the salad bar price will increase to \$4.50 (the same price as the plate lunch). Our lunch prices have not increased in several years, and we hope you agree that these increases are nominal.

2. We are adding two new items to the menu: Veggie Cups for \$2.00 and Fruit Cups for \$2.00.

Also, please note that the February lunch menu has been updated and is posted on the [school website](#), along with the March menu.

ST. MARK S.T.E.M. NIGHT SPONSORSHIPS

St. Mark will host our first annual S.T.E.M. Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) on April 8, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 PM on the St. Mark campus. Our entire St. Mark community is invited to participate. We are honored to have Allison N. '14 serve as one of the event Co-Chairs.

Can you help? We are looking for LION parents who work for companies that incorporate an aspect of S.T.E.M. into their business to sponsor booths at the event. Nearly all industries incorporate technology in some way, so think about how your company might apply Science, Technology, Engineering or Math, and how that information could be shared with our community. The possibilities are endless! In addition, if your company has a Human Resources or Community Outreach department, please consider sharing that contact information with us. We will follow-up directly to see if any opportunities exist.

Important Notes:

1. There is no charge to sponsor a booth.

Links: [Pledge Sheet](#); [Online Donation Link](#)

[Check out the new LLS poster that features our own survivor, Jacob N., by clicking here.](#)

February Project: Book Drive

St. Mark students are asked to bring in a gently used book to share with a fellow Catholic school working to build a library. Books should be turned in to classroom teachers.

Catholic Social Teaching: Call to family, community and participation.

Who Benefits? Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Community

Due Date: Friday, February 26



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

2. Booths need to be kid-friendly and have a hands-on activity to engage our students.
3. You or a representative from your company would need to be present at the booth on the night of the event.
4. Your company will benefit from exposure to our students and their families.

If you can share your company's S.T.E.M. expertise at this event, please contact Pam Steinkirchner by February 26 at pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

SCHOLARSHIPS

As Catholic school scholarship information becomes available, we will post it on the Financial Aid page on our school website. [Click here](#) for updates. Most recently, we've received the following information:

The Catholic Foundation High School Scholarship Fund: The Board of Trustees of The Catholic Foundation has renewed a scholarship fund for each Diocesan Catholic high school for the 2016-17 school year. In addition to other criteria, students must be of the Catholic faith and must present a need. Students planning to attend one of the Catholic high schools next year who might be eligible for one of these scholarships should contact the high school directly for more information.

POPCORN SALE BENEFITTING MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Tuesday, February 16 and Thursday, February 18. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, or Salsa. Order extra bags for gifts or

'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!

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.

***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"

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

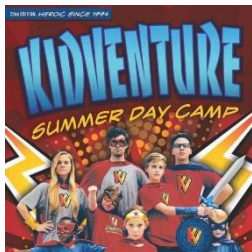
snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on February 22. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 2/16-18. Please help support the middle school yearbook elective and enjoy a tasty treat!

MARCH 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 March, or for more information about our Watch D.O.G.S. program. Sign-ups are due February 15. Half days and full days are available. Remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer as a Watch D.O.G.

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.

"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!

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

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!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Track & Field Registration

Dates: Registration is now open for the St. Mark Track & Field team. The deadline to register is February 17 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Track & Field page](#) on our website for more details.

Baseball/Softball

Registration: Registration is now open for the St. Mark baseball and softball teams. The deadline to register is February 15 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Baseball/Softball page](#) on our website for more details.

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).

DADDY-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART DINNER & DANCE

The St. Mark Girl Scouts invite all dads and daughters (scouts and non-scouts) to attend their annual Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dinner & Dance on Friday, February 19 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the St. Mark Cafetorium. Enjoy dinner from Olive Garden, a dance and dance contest, a raffle for an American Girl doll of the year, and more. [Click here](#) for more details.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Wednesday, February 17: Teacher Luncheon, hosted by Preschool and 5th grade. Parents of these students should be on the lookout for an email and Sign-up Genius to help out with this event.

HELP NEEDED:

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, 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

Soccer Registration:

Registration is now open for the St. Mark Soccer team. The deadline to register is February 24 at 12:00 NOON. Please visit the [Soccer page](#) on our website for more information.

Come out and cheer on your Lion basketball teams! This weekend's games*:

5th grade girls Green vs. St. Rita @ St. Rita, 2/13, 9:00 AM

5th grade girls Green vs. The Highlands @ The Highlands, 2/14, 12:00 PM

5th grade girls Gold vs. St. Monica @ St. Mark, 2/13, 9:00 AM

5th grade girls Gold vs. St. Philip/St. Augustine @ St. Mark, 2/14, 12:00 PM

5th grade boys Green vs. St. Patrick @ St. Patrick, 2/13, 10:00 AM

5th grade boys Gold vs. SPX @ St. Mark, 2/13, 10:00 AM

6th grade girls Green vs. St. Philip/St. Augustine @ St. Philip/St. Augustine, 2/13, 11:00 AM

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: The Box Top committee is going to start counting the Box Tops for the next class contest. If you have any Box Tops sitting at home, please send them in.

FROM THE NET TEAM

Sisters & Cinema: This one-time event for young women in grades 6-12 will be held

6th grade girls Gold vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark, 2/13, 12:00 PM

6th grade boys D2 vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 2/13, 11:00 AM

6th grade boys D2 vs. SPX @ SPX, 2/14, 12:00 PM

6th grade boys D1 vs. CKS @ CKS, 2/13, 12:00 PM

6th grade boys D1 vs. St. Thomas @ St. Thomas, 2/14, 4:00 PM

7th grade girls vs. St. Paul @ St. Mark, 2/14, 1:00 PM

7th grade boys vs. POP @ St. Mark, 2/13, 3:00 PM

7th grade boys vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 2/14, 2:00 PM

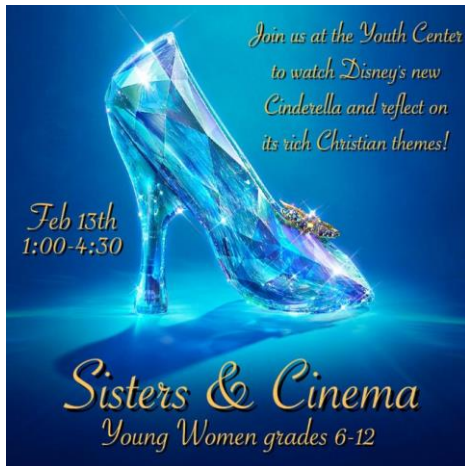
8th grade girls vs. CKS @ St. Mark, 2/13, 1:00 PM

8th grade girls vs. SPX @ St. Mark, 2/14, 4:00 PM

8th grade boys Green vs. St. Patrick @ St. Patrick, 2/14, 2:00 PM

8th grade boys Gold vs. SPX @ St. Mark, 2/13, 2:00 PM

Saturday, February 13 from 1:00-4:30 PM in the St. Mark Youth Center (located inside the Parish Center at 1105 W. 15th Street). They will watch the 2015 *Cinderella* movie and reflect on its rich Christian themes.



Let Us Adore:
Join us for ...

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

8th grade boys Gold vs. St. Joseph @ St. Mark, 2/14, 3:00 PM

8th grade boys D3 vs. St. Elizabeth @ St. Elizabeth, 2/13, 11:00 AM

*Games are subject to change.
Please confirm with team coaches.

During home games, be sure to visit our fully-stocked concession stand, and stock up on LION gear at the Lion's Den spirit store!



GO LIONS!



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. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:

***Join Us for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM:**

February - 14th, 28th
April - 3rd, 17th, 24th

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

each week if your student wishes to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal.

THERESE: THE STORY OF A SOUL, BENEFITTING BIRTH CHOICE

St. Luke Productions presents "*Therese: The Story of a Soul*," a fundraiser benefitting the Birth Choice Catholic pregnancy resource center. Be inspired by this amazing live drama about one of the world's most beloved saints. The performance takes place on Saturday, March 5. Choose to attend a 2:00 PM matinee, a 5:30 PM dinner and show, or an 8:00 PM show-only performance at the Eisemann Center. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more information. Purchase tickets at www.eisemanncenter.com.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Ordination of Bishop Gregory Kelly: On Thursday, our 7th and 8th grade students watched the live streaming of Bishop Kelly's ordination in the church. St. Mark was also well-represented at the actual event. Holy Trinity Seminarians, Jesus C. and Parker T. (pictured below), participated in the ordination, and Father Cliff, Deacon Dominic, Deacon Shawn French, and some uniformed St. Mark students were celebrating Mass as well. One teacher said that St. Mark had a "...remarkable representation of our school. It felt like home!"



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.

CELEBRATION OF LOVE

St. Mark Parish invites you to the annual "Celebration of Love." Renew your marriage vows and enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, love and laughter on February 13 at 6:45 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. [Click here](#) for more information.

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

St. Mark Alums Selected for Diocesan Mission Trip: Each year, the Diocese of Dallas sponsors a student summer mission trip outside the U.S. Fifty students from five area Catholic high schools are chosen to represent their respective schools. Students must submit applications in order to be considered, and are chosen based on various criteria including their academic standing, leadership, letters of recommendation, and personal interviews. Students



3rd Grade Studies Rocks: Our third grade class is studying rocks in Science class. Each student brought in a unique rock. They will use them for lab work, and will end the unit by making their own "pet rocks."

(photo removed)

5th Grade Reads to 3rd Grade: Our fifth grade students recently took time out to visit their third grade counterparts and spend some quality reading time with them. Smiles all around!

(photo removed)



LION PRIDE!

Diocesan Speech League Final Meet: Congratulations to the following students who competed at the final meet of the Diocesan Speech League last weekend: The TV

assist communities in need with construction projects, and engage in fellowship with the youth of the parishes they serve. Among the students chosen for 2016, several are St. Mark alumni: **Andrew B. '13** from John Paul II High School; **Emily A. '13**, **Caroline D. '13** and **Elizabeth R. '14** from Ursuline Academy of Dallas, and **Brooke H. '13** from Bishop Lynch High School. We are so proud of these students for continuing to carry out their Catholic mission of service to others.

Two Alums Earn Debate

Honors: Two members of the Jesuit College Prep Debate Team received honors at the recent Colleyville Heritage Invitational tournament.

Patrick B. '12, current senior, and his partner, earned third place honors out of more than 60 teams. In the novice division, **Ethan J. '15**, current freshman, and his partner, went a flawless 8-0 on the day, including a sweep over two teams from Greenhill in the semifinals and finals en route to first place. It was the first tournament of the year won by a freshman debate team. Ethan will join a handful of others who advance to the National Debate Tournament in

commercial team of Zosia S., Julianna S. and Etoile I. made it to the finals, and Zosia S. placed third in Humorous Interpretation.

(photo removed)

DPL Scholar-Athlete Award: Congratulations to 8th grader, Charlie S., who is one of five recipients of the 2016 Dallas Parochial League's Scholar-Athlete Award! Each recipient receives a \$500 check towards Catholic school tuition. Applicants are judged on grades, conduct, quantity of DPL sports played, an essay, and letters of recommendation. Awards will be presented at the 8th grade All-Star basketball game at Bishop Lynch High School on February 17.

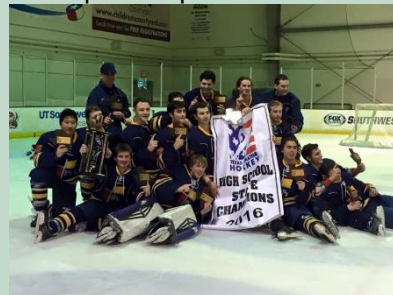
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Atlanta in late March. Jesuit is also one of only four schools, and the only private school in the entire state, to qualify five or more teams for the state tournament which will take place March 10-12.

Alum Performs in *Shrek the Musical*: Mitchell J. '15 has landed the role of Donkey in *Shrek the Musical* at John Paul II High School. Performances take place April 1 and 2 at 7:30 PM, and April 3 at 3:00 PM.

Hockey Champs: Kudos to Jake K. '12, Nate K. '14 and Joey M. '14 who are members of the John Paul II High School hockey team. They won their first state championship last weekend!



Soccer Stars: Congratulations to the Ursuline Academy of Dallas JV Soccer Team that won their 5A Tapps Division Championship against Nolan Catholic High School and Bishop Lynch High School. They took overall and won

the bracket. **Savannah H. '15** and **Shannon R. '15** are both members of the team.



JPII Superlative Awards:

John Paul II High School announced their Superlative Award winners, and several St. Mark alums are on the list. Congratulations to **Scott J. '12** - Outstanding Cardinal; **Sarah C. '12** - Most School Spirit; **Jennifer Y. '12** - Wittiest Senior Girl; **Courtney J. '12** - Best Christian Attitude Senior; **Carter P. '14** - Most Athletic Sophomore Boy; **Amber R. '14** - Most Athletic Sophomore Girl; **Reed W. '14** - Friendliest Sophomore Boy; **Caroline G. '14** - Sophomore Class Favorite

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