



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

December 14, 2018

Prayer for the 2018-19 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would treat Jesus Christ, with all our heart, mind and soul.

REMINDERS

TODAY, Friday, December 14:

-7th grade received the Vocations Chalice at All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Friday, December 14 - Wednesday, December 19:

-Middle School Midterm Exams (schedule below)

Tuesday, December 18:

-2:45 PM, Cafetorium: Band Concert

Thursday, December 20:

-6:30 PM, Church: Christmas Pageant (PK-5th grade; details below)

Friday, December 21:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 7th grade. All are welcome.

-Class Christmas Parties



A National School of
Excellence

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

"Like" and "share"
on your social media!

QUICK LINKS

-12:00 NOON Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 3:00 PM. Please send a lunch with all ASP students.



Half Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Visit the location across the street from the school, mention St. Mark as you place your order, and a percentage of the proceeds benefits the Athletics Department!

Monday, December 24:

-5:00 PM, Church: Children's Choir Sings at Mass

Monday, December 24-Friday, January 4:

-NO SCHOOL: Christmas Holidays

Monday, January 7:

-NO SCHOOL: Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 8:

-School Resumes

GOLDEN PARENT

We love recognizing the "gold" in our community, and our parents are no exception. Last week, Rick Miranda, parent of TK student, Christian, lent a much needed hand to another parent in the afternoon carpool line by jump starting a dead battery. 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Jackson, witnessed this GOLDEN behavior and presented Mr. Miranda with one of our special gold coins. Thank you, Mr. Miranda, for being a GOLDEN example to our community!

#BEGOLDEN

MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDTERM SCHEDULE

Friday, December 14

Spanish

Monday, December 17

Social studies and Religion

Tuesday, December 18

English and Science

Wednesday, December 19

Literature and Math



Calendar

[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Safe Environment](#)

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

[Work of Heart Nomination](#)

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

As many of you have heard, our parish is taking on the huge (and most admirable) task of providing everyone who attends a St. Mark mass on

Christmas Eve

and Christmas Day with a personalized Christmas card from a parishioner. The school was enlisted to help, and between our students and staff, we signed 1,360 cards! We are thrilled to help welcome everyone to St. Mark during this special time of year.



SAFETY UPDATE

As part of St. Mark's campus safety program, the school conducts emergency drills on a monthly basis. An "intruder"

drill was held on Monday, December 10. Students and staff quickly and efficiently locked down classrooms and offices without incident.



ST. MARK IN THE NEWS

Check out our latest promotion in the [Collin County Newcomer and Relocation Guide](#). The online version is out now, and the print version will be available soon.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Financial aid applications are now open. We highly recommend that families apply now before the "1st priority period" deadline of January 5, 2019. Please [click here](#) for more details about financial aid.



JOIN DRAMA KIDS!

Join us for **DRAMA KIDS** 2019 Spring Plays!

No nerve-wracking auditions! No big stars, no small stars;
DRAMA KIDS is for everyone! every child is a star in DK!



Pirate Joe

For many, a young pirate joining the Great Captain Joe's Expedition could only be a dream. But, what if the Captain is an unstoppable tyrant who is feared by everyone across the sea? That doesn't stop this swarthy pirate crew. The reality on board is quite far from a dream, though. Will Pirate Joe be able to keep the crew in line or will the crew take over and stage a mutiny? Join our Pirate Crew to find out!

BIG TOP

Once a fantastic circus, The Big Top is now a big flop, frustrating its talented and hard-working performers. Reminiscing on their long-gone "sold out" nights, these stars decide to change the course of their fate and fight together to bring the kids back to the circus...but not without solving a Big Mystery first. Help solve the mystery and restore The Big Top to fame!



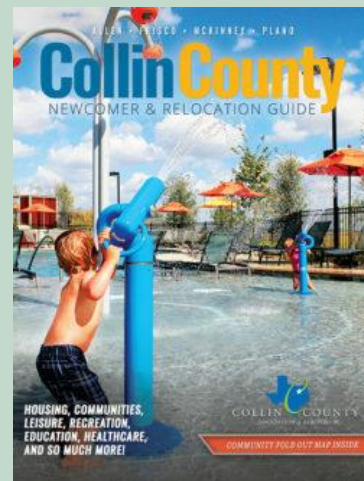
Classes held at St. Mark Catholic School
Grades K-5th Wednesdays 3:40-4:40pm
Register now at dramakids.com/tx3
or call (972) 363-2369

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

PK-5th grade parents: The invitation to the annual Christmas Pageant, as well as details about the evening, were sent home last week via Renweb. If you missed it, please [click here](#).



CHRISTMAS VACATION



St. Mark is also featured in the *Dallas Child* and *Collin Child* magazines' December issues in the special "STEM" section on page 35 (and there's a bonus picture on page 38 of ECE Coordinator, Mrs. Peralta, at the "Project Preschool" event at Willow Bend Mall in September). [Click here](#) to flip through the digital issue.



WATCH D.O.G.S.

Calling all "Dads of Great Students!"

[Click here](#) to learn more about our Watch D.O.G.S.

volunteer program for Dads only, and to reserve your spot during the month of January. Sign-ups are due December 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you



A reminder that if you are leaving early for the Christmas break or returning late, please email both your child's teacher and Mrs. O'Connor at rene.oconnor@stmcs.net.



VOLUNTEER FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement in Kindergarten-5th grade. This is a great opportunity to be in the classroom and teach our kids some basic business and economic principles. JA classes are taught once a week for five weeks for a total of five classes. Each class is 30 minutes long. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. Training will be held on February 13 at 2:30 PM. Please [click here](#) to sign-up. If you have questions, please email Polly Chesler at tristraj11@gmail.com.



THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF



The faculty and staff send our sincere thanks to our school families, the Home & School Association, and Father Cliff for the incredible Christmas Celebration dinner on Tuesday evening. The food, desserts and drinks were just wonderful, as were the special gifts from HSA. Of course, it means even more knowing how many of our school families contributed to the evening.

We are so blessed to be part of a community where we feel the love and support of our families every day, and especially at Christmastime. We return those sentiments in equal measure!

PURCHASE YOUR 2018-19 YEARBOOK

must be [Safe Environment trained](#) to serve.

SUPPER OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the Baldwin family who will enjoy a spread of soups, salads, bread and dessert this weekend compliments of chefs Amy Garrison, Beth Kyle, Carolyn Townsend, Carolyn Eisele, Krissy Ferri, Donna Ostermann, and Tammy Williams!



Look for your chance to bid on this wonderful Auction package at the March 2, 2019 event! More details coming soon.

ORDER YOUR LEGACY BRICK TODAY



A St. Mark Legacy Brick makes a great holiday gift! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. All community members including students, families, alumni, parishioners and parish ministries/organizations are encouraged to purchase a custom-designed brick engraved with a family name, ministry, or organization, child's

Don't delay, order your 2018-19 St. Mark Catholic School Yearbook today! The yearbook is a wonderful keepsake that chronicles the entire school year and includes all students from Preschool through 8th grade. The price is \$30. NOTE: Each 8th grader will be given a yearbook free of charge! Payment may be submitted in one of three ways:

1. Electronic Payment: If you would like to make your payment electronically, you can do so on the [Electronic Payment page](#) of the school website. Please select the "Yearbook/Memory Book" option and in the Comment box, write "Yearbook" and your child's name and homeroom.
2. Check: Make checks payable to "St. Mark Catholic School." Include your child's name, homeroom, and "Yearbook" on the memo line. Send it to school with your child or drop it off at the front desk.
3. Cash: Place cash in an envelope and write your child's name, homeroom, and "Yearbook" on the outside. Send it to school with your child or drop it off at the front desk.

YEARBOOK ADS FOR ACTIVITIES NOW AVAILABLE

Ad space for non-school activities (Scouts, PSA teams, etc.) is now available for purchase. If you would like your activity or event to appear in the 2018-19 school yearbook, you may purchase ad space. Prices are \$75 for one quarter page (3.25"x 4.5"), \$100 for one half page (6.75" x 4.5"), and \$150 for one page (6.75"x 9.25"). Email Stacy Oliver at stacy.oliver@stmcs.net to reserve your space. Payment can be made online by [clicking here](#). Select "Memory/Yearbook" from the drop-down menu, and write "ad" in the Comments section.

PARISHIONER TUITION DISCOUNT REMINDER

name, loved one's name, etc. Logos are available for all kinds of interests such as religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir and more. These custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to the school. Bricks are \$100 each. To place your order, [click here](#). NOTE: Brick orders are taken year round. One annual order is sent to the manufacturer over the summer and bricks are generally installed in early fall.

NOMINATE A STAFF MEMBER FOR A WORK OF HEART



Has a faculty or staff member gone "above and beyond" for your student or family? Nominate him or her for a "Work of Heart Award" through The Catholic Foundation. Simply complete their [online nomination form](#). Winners receive a certificate of recognition, a check from The Catholic Foundation, and special recognition at an All School Mass.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF

Did you know? 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Salvia, was born in St. Louis, Missouri and loves the St. Louis Cardinals, has a BS from the University of Missouri and a Masters in Education from Webster University, is a Level 1 Google Certified Educator, has two sons, Ryan and Nathan, loves reading, needlepoint, yard work, and spending time with family and friends.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th



In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2018. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that did not meet the \$800 minimum will be

sent out in late January 2019. If you have any questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard in the parish office now to avoid the year end rush. Nadya can be reached at (972) 423-5600 ext. 258, or ncollard@stmarkplano.org.

Payment options:

- * Check (payable to "St. Mark Catholic Church") may be placed in the weekly collection basket or dropped off at the parish office.
- * Electronic payment accessible by [clicking here](#). Please note that recurring payments can also be set-up using this link.
- * Please do NOT send your payment to the school office or use the school's electronic payment site.

Reminders from the parish office:

- * The parish office is not notified when an electronic payment is declined or stopped (i.e. credit card expiration date as in the case of recurring payments). It is the responsibility of the family to monitor their bank and credit card statements to ensure the payments are successful.
- * If you are putting cash in the collection baskets, you must use your parishioner envelopes. It is the only way to ensure the donation will be credited back to your name.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

If you are considering an additional end-of-year donation, St. Mark Catholic Church and School are non-profit organizations that allow you to make tax-deductible donations. As the end of the year approaches and you review your tax-deductible donations, please consider giving to your own St. Mark community.

Please also check with your company to determine if matching funds are available. Some of the companies that provide corporate matching include 3M, AIG, Abbott, Bank of America, Boeing, Chevron, Cisco,

grade child? **Limited openings are available in select grade levels for the 2018-19 school year.**

Spread the word! **Applications for the 2019-20 school year are now available online at** www.stmcs.net/application-form-new-students.



2019 Open Houses:

January 29 - 9:00 AM
February 5 - 6:00 PM
March 26 - 8:00 AM
April 23 - 5:30 PM (PK/Kindergarten)

Pre-registration is available online at www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours.

KEEP THOSE REFERRALS

COMING: Encourage prospective families to register for a **private tour** at www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours. If they attend, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate for the Lion's Den Spirit Store, and if they enroll, you could receive a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

Welcome to the St. Mark Community Prayer Team. It is our goal to bring the St. Mark community closer to Christ and to each other. There will be numerous opportunities for you to get involved this school year. Even if you are unable to participate in



Conoco Phillips, Deloitte, Gates Foundation, Intel, Lockheed Martin, Merck, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Raytheon, Texas Instruments, Verizon, and Walmart. Another good resource for learning if your company has a matching gift program is www.matchinggifts.com/smu.

-If you would like to make a monetary donation to St. Mark Catholic School (including a particular department or program such as Athletics or Fine Arts), please [click here](#). Enter the amount under "Miscellaneous," and specify the program in the "comments" section. Donations may also be made directly to the St. Mark [Gap Fund](#) and the [Technology Fund](#).

- To make a donation to St. Mark Catholic Church, [click here](#).

As a reminder, donations to the school do not count towards the required \$800 parish donation. We are truly appreciative of your support.

YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS CAN PAY OFF AGAIN

Did you know that some companies donate to nonprofit organizations based on the number of hours their employees volunteer with that organization? For example, Texas Instruments, Brinker, Southwest Airlines, and Verizon all offer programs where monetary donations, airlines ticket vouchers, etc. are awarded to nonprofits for volunteer hours. Be sure to check your company's policies. We all volunteer at St. Mark in some capacity. Make those hours pay off again by requesting a matching corporate donation to St. Mark!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Parents interested in coaching a St. Mark baseball, softball or track team in 2019 who have not completed the "Play Like A Champion" course, please [click here](#)

person, we invite you to join in from where you are. For more information about the Community Prayer Team, please [click here](#).

Prayer Requests: The school has a Prayer Table available to anyone visiting campus (family members, etc.) which is located in the hallway between the Administration offices and the Cafetorium. Everyone is welcome to place prayer requests in the box on the table. These intentions will be taken to Mass on Fridays as part of the offering.

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention: In addition to your prayers for our St. Mark community of students, families, teachers, staff and religious, we hope you will also remember Pope Francis' monthly intentions:

December: Evangelization - In the Service of the Transmission of Faith: That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialog with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

AROUND THE PARISH

for details and registration information. Two class dates will be offered in January.



Shop the Lion's Den Spirit Store for all of your spirit wear needs! It is open every Friday morning that school is in session from 7:30-8:15 AM in the Cafetorium. Can't make it in person? Shop online at www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear. Once an order has been submitted it will be bundled and ready for pick up on Friday. Note: Not all items available are offered online.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Please continue to send your "Golden Volunteer" nominations to [Adriana Mora](#) or [Gisella Briggie](#). They are welcome any time of the month. The next "Golden Volunteer" will be announced in January. Stay tuned!



November brought in 478 box tops! That's an additional \$47.80 for St. Mark Catholic School! Our school total is now **\$364.70** -- way to go! Thank you to all who have submitted.



Here are the class standings (Box Tops per student) which will start the new competition for submission:

5th Grade:	192 Box Tops = Averaging 3.84 Box Tops/Student
4th Grade:	81 Box Tops = Averaging 1.69 Box Tops/Student
3rd Grade:	34 Box Tops = Averaging 0.67 Box Tops/Student
2nd Grade:	28 Box Tops = Averaging 0.65 Box Tops/Student
6/7/8th Grades:	73 Box Tops = Averaging 0.38 Box Tops/Student
TK/K:	16 Box Tops = Averaging 0.25 Box Tops/Student
Preschool:	0 Box Tops = Averaging 0 Box Tops/Student
1st Grade:	0 Box Tops = Averaging 0 Box Tops/Student

5th Grade is in the lead... BUT there is still time to submit until the 2019 submission. Start saving for

"The Polar Express"

"Get up, get on, and get ready for the ride of your life!"
"You'll see wonders.....and you'll believe.".....

All Aboard!

Where: St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Center
McGivney Hall (1105 West 15th Street)

When: Sat. Dec. 15th, from 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Cost: Free *

* donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items will be accepted for the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Join us for a family friendly movie event for children and adults of all ages! We'll be serving hot chocolate and cookies and each family will leave with a special ornament for their tree.

Don't forget to wear your favorite pajamas and slippers and to bring your blankets and pillows!

Spending a fun-filled afternoon with your family in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season = Priceless!!!

In order to provide refreshments, we ask that you please RSVP on our parish website and if you have any questions or need additional information, please call 972-423-4715.

Advent Reconciliation

Service: Come and join us for an Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 17 (English) and Tuesday, December 18 (Spanish). We will have several priests available for individual confessions. Service starts at 7:00 PM. This is a great way to prepare for Advent as a family.



2nd Annual Festival of Nations Multicultural Potluck Celebrating Our Parish Diversity

**Friday, January 4, 2019
In the Cafetorium
(following the 5:30 PM Mass)**

Bring a dish to share that is part of your country's heritage, a country you've visited, or a recipe you and your

December's collection. Please turn in any Box Tops you have collected by December 20. Please carefully cut out unexpired Box Tops from participating brands (expiration date must be visible - November saw a high number of expired Box Tops); place in a Ziploc (which conveniently has Box Tops!) or envelope; clearly write your child's grade/teacher on it; and turn them in to your child's teacher. Box Tops submitted without grade/teacher on them will count towards our overall goal but we will not be able to keep track of them for the competition! Each Box Top submitted earns \$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here for details](#). For more information, please contact Melissa King (mak216@gmail.com) or Sharon Mattis (sharone7@hotmail.com).

2018-19 Volunteer Opportunities: The Home & School Association cannot be successful without amazing volunteers to help in our school. There are many ways you can share your time and talents in the new school year.

*[Click here](#) for a link to the Sign-Up Genius for HSA Committees/Events. All positions are available on a first come, first serve basis.

*Want to volunteer in your child's classroom? [Click here](#) to access individual classroom sign-up links for grades PK-2nd.

Earn Money for St. Mark by Simply Shopping at Kroger: Enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program and a percentage of your purchases will go directly to the St. Mark Catholic School Home & School Association. [Click here](#) for complete instructions. Kroger cards must be relinked to St. Mark every 12 months.

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE FAMILIES: CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL APP, FINANCIAL AID & ISEE REMINDERS

Please be mindful of several items during the Catholic high school admissions process:

*Catholic high school application and ISEE registration deadlines are approaching. Check the

family enjoy cooking and would like to share.

Wear native dress and bring keepsakes to wear or display at your table.

Sign-up is available by [clicking here](#).

FRENCH MASS AT CISTERCIAN

Mrs. Denvir extends an invitation to all students and their families to attend the monthly French Masses at Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey, 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving. There is an opportunity to do the readings and to sample French snacks at the end of every Mass. Next Mass: Sunday, December 16, 10:30 AM.



SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

A few scenes from this week. To learn the stories behind these photos, visit our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages!

ECE Polar Express:



PJ Day:

individual high school websites for application due dates and visit www.erblearn.org/parents/isee-registration for ISEE test dates/registration. **It is beneficial to register as early as possible for the ISEE test.**

*If you need a waiver for the cost of the ISEE test (\$120), the high schools have a limited number that they can issue. Please inquire with the high schools directly.

*ISEE offers a free test prep booklet at www.iseetest.org.

***It is important to apply early for financial aid.** Information can be found on the high school websites. Additional information about diocesan financial aid can also be found at <https://csodallas.org/finances/>.

As always, please let us know if we can assist in any way.

The Highlands School has provided the following information for 8th grade families interested in applying:



*The Highlands School 2019-20 tuition rate has been set at \$16,000 per year.
*13 scholarships are available for incoming freshmen.
*Interested families can [apply here](#).
*Tours are still available before the Christmas break. Please contact Jennifer Denney at jdenney@thehighlandsschool.org or 214-614-2942.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Join John Paul II High School for a special **St. Mark Parent Night** on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM. This evening is reserved for St. Mark parents only, complete with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Please [click here](#) to register. (Please note: This is a "parents only" event.)



Staff Wacky Tacky Christmas:



Christmas in P.E.:



PK3 STEM:





Bill Reagan's 4th Annual Holiday "Top Gun" Quarterback Training is back at Jesuit from December 26-28 for grades 5-11. Bill is a former Notre Dame Football staff member, St. Joseph's College Head Coach and Trent Dilfer's Elite 11 Camp staff

member. For information, visit

www.reagantopgunqbtraining.com. For the registration/waiver form, please [click here](#).

YOU'RE INVITED!

You're invited to attend the 2018 "King of Nations" Nativity Concert on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 PM at the Courtyard Theater in downtown Plano, or on Saturday, December 22 at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM at Bishop Lynch High School. For more information and to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).



PAW PRIDE!

1st Grade STEM:



2nd Grade STEAM:



3rd Grade STEM:



Congratulations to our Speech Team, Andrew A., Biya C., Renil G., Sophia L., Casie P. and Alina S. who competed in the Diocesan Speech Competition last weekend. All students made it to the finals, and Casie and Sophia placed 2nd in Duet Acting!



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