



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

December 21, 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 21:

-8th grade received the Vocations Chalice at All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming weeks.

-12:00 NOON Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 3:00 PM.



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:



A National School of
Excellence

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay
connected!



Like what you see?

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

-NO SCHOOL: Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 8:

-School Resumes

Wednesday, January 9:

-7:10 AM, Student Council Meeting

Friday, January 11:

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

-2nd Quarter Ends

#BEGOLDEN

We continue to marvel at how the Golden Rule and the Christmas Spirit are expressed at St. Mark. We've recently witnessed numerous ways in which our families have identified needs within the school community and have chosen to address those needs through selflessness, kindness and generosity. It is heartwarming to see our community members supporting one another at this time of year and always.



CHRISTMAS VACATION

A reminder that if you are returning from the Christmas break after January 8, please email both your child's teacher and Mrs. O'Connor at rene.oconnor@stmcs.net.



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!

QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)

[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Safe Environment](#)

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

[Work of Heart Nomination](#)

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 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.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF

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



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.



PURCHASE YOUR 2018-19 YEARBOOK

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:

Did you know? Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Thompson, has a BBA in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin, was a controller for a land development construction company, designs costumes for competition roller skaters, has three children (one has a PhD in Neuroscience, one is an editor for a newspaper, one is a writer for Legal Zoom), and she enjoys gardening, cooking, and reading.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

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

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



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.

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 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

* 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, 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.

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



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 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](#).

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!

YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS CAN PAY OFF AGAIN

Did you know that some companies donate to non-profit 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 non-profits 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!



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](#) 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!

#BEGOLDEN

Angel Tree Service Project:



Band Concert:



#BEGOLDEN:



Christmas Pageant:



Class Christmas Parties:

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 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.



Santa Visit:



PK3/5th Christmas Cards:



PK4 Static Electricity:



Kindergarten STEM:

PAW PRIDE!

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the 2018 Knights of Columbus Poster Contest that challenged them to illustrate "Keeping Christ in Christmas" ...

Middle School Division: Kara N., 1st Place; Alina S., 3rd Place

5th Grade Division: Quyendi T., 1st Place; Karson A. and Jeslyn T., tied for 2nd Place; Diya C., 3rd Place

3rd & 4th Grade Division: Chris B., 1st Place; Sloane J., 2nd Place

Overall Winners: Kara N., 1st Place; Karson A., 2nd Place



1st Grade Elf Tricks:



7th Grade STEM:



Girl Scouts:



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.)



Cistercian is an independent Catholic preparatory school educating boys through grade 12 in an all-honors curriculum. For more information and the 2019-20 application, please see the following links:

[School Profile](#)
[School Website](#)



[Join Our Mailing List](#)



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](#).

[Forward To A Friend](#)



A Christmas Blessing

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
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