



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

October 4, 2019

Prayer for the 2019-20 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, October 4:

5th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Monday, October 7:

-St. Mark Spirit Day! Refer to guidelines on page 27 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#).

-5:30 PM, McGivney Hall/Parish Center: Parish Meet & Greet (details below)

-6:00 PM, St. Rita Catholic School: High School Preview Night (details below)

Tuesday, October 8:

-9:30 AM, Cafetorium: Plano Fire Department Clowns Visit

Wednesday, October 9:

-7:10 AM: Student Council Meeting



A National School of
Excellence



Named 1 of the top 3
Catholic schools in the nation for
technology integration

FAITH IN ACTION

-7:15 AM, Cafetorium: Rosary (details below)

Thursday, October 10:

-8th grade visits John Paul II High School

Friday, October 11:

-NO SCHOOL: UD Ministry Conference

Saturday, October 5:

-Diocesan Speech Tournament (note date change)

Monday, October 14-Friday, October 18:

-Standardized Testing Week (grades 1-8)

LONG RANGE PLAN

Dear Parents: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to recognize the imperative need for Catholic schools to provide an excellent academic program within a faith-filled environment.

St. Mark's [long range plan](#) serves as a guide to achieve our mission to "educate each student in a spirit of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles."

I encourage all school parents to read through this plan. It is a collaborative effort among the staff, is approved by the School Advisory Council, and provides insight into the areas of Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.



"CHURCH OF THE HOME" PARENT RETREAT



Courtesy



Service From the Heart:

October Project
Blanket Making
& Coloring Pages

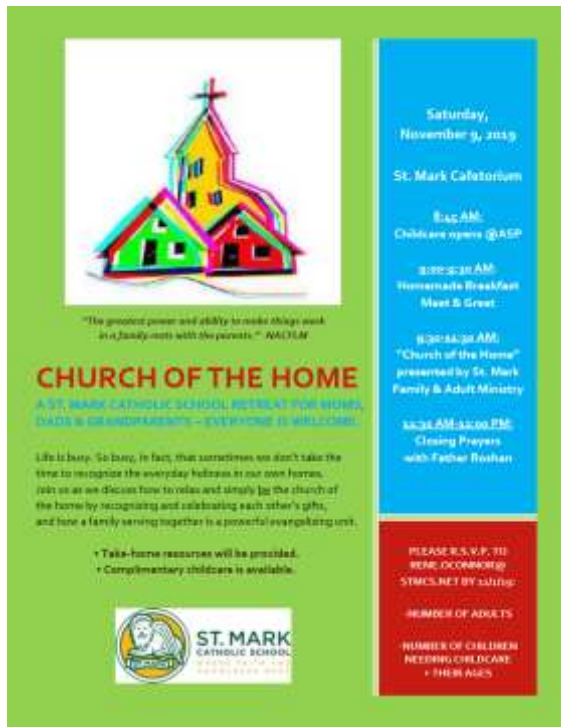
Materials will be provided to homeroom classes. Students will make blankets and coloring pages for veterans.

Catholic Social Teaching
Solidarity

Who Benefits?
Veterans at the VA Hospital

Due Date
October 24, 2019

**NATIONAL
CUSTODIAL
WORKER'S
RECOGNITION DAY**



In recognition of National Custodial Worker's Recognition

Day this week, we'd like to send very special thanks to our Facilities staff. They do so much behind the scenes to keep our school clean, safe, and beautiful. We appreciate them EVERY day, but it's nice to give them some extra recognition on this special day each year!

PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK UPDATE

Field Trip policies have been added to pages 35 and 54 of the Parent Student Handbook. Please refer to the [online version](#) for details.

POPCORN SALE



The Yearbook will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3 – 8) next week to raise money to cover

the cost of printing the yearbook. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time on Monday October 7-Thursday October 10. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar or Salsa, or Vanilla or

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Parish Donation: In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2019. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that did not meet the \$800 minimum will be sent out in late January 2020. 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.

School Financial Statements: In accordance with the Diocese of Dallas Policy on Financial Management and Administration, an independent CPA firm conducted our "Agreed Upon Procedures" review for the 2018-2019 school year. The school's financial reports can be found via the following links:

[Statement of Activities vs Prior Year](#)

[Statement of Financial Position vs Prior Year](#)

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

We are currently offering **ImPACT concussion baseline testing** for our students ages 11 & up. We *strongly encourage* every student athlete to take this important health screening. If interested, please [click here](#) to sign up. **NOTE: If your student has already taken the test within the last two years, their test is still good and they do NOT have to retake it.** Feel free to contact Nurse [Caroline Townsend](#) for more information.

TEACHER COMMISSIONING MASS

Mark your calendar and plan to join us as Father Marco celebrates the All School Mass on Friday, October 18 at 8:30 AM including the Diocese of Dallas "Commissioning of Catholic School Teachers for Ministry." We'd love to have as many school families as possible in attendance as we pray for our teachers and our school at this special mass.

Caramel. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders. This makes a great snack during Standardized Testing Week! Please help support the yearbook and enjoy a tasty treat!

LOWDOWN FROM THE LION'S LAIR

[Click here](#) to check out the latest edition from the Video Broadcast Club.

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 (and grandfathers, uncles), and to reserve your spot during the month of November. Sign-ups are due October 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to serve.

SCHOOL PICTURE ORDERS

Lifetouch school picture proofs were sent home with your child on October 2. Picture orders are due back in the school office by October 13. You may order school pictures in one of two ways:

*Place your order online through the Lifetouch website. Instructions are included with the proof. If you order online, there is no need to return the proof/order form to the school.

*Complete the order form included with the proof. Send it, along with payment, to the school office. If paying by check, please make it out to "Lifetouch" and include your child's name on the memo line.

If you are not happy with your child's school picture, retakes will take place on October 23. If your child will participate in retakes, please email the teacher by October 22. This will insure that your child will be sent to the photographer on retake day.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL LINES

Our afternoon dismissal lines are becoming an increasing safety concern. We are seeing that many cars do not have signs to identify the student(s) to be picked up.

Last request: All cars must have a sign displayed in the front windshield that includes the child(ren) name(s) written in letters at least 2 inches tall in bold, black marker. This includes daycares.

Carpool signs were issued to each family at the beginning of the year. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like for us to make you another sign.

Beginning very soon, all cars without a sign will be required to pull forward to a designated holding area and

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM



Welcome to the St. Mark Community Prayer Team! It is our goal to bring the St. Mark

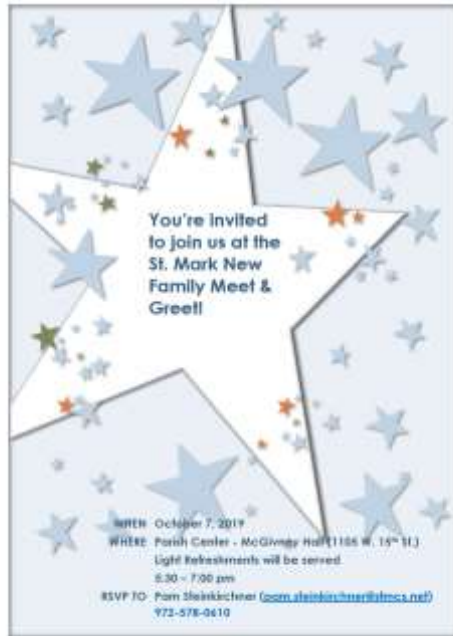
community closer to Christ and to each other. There will be numerous opportunities for you to get involved this school year. Even if you are unable to participate in person, please pray for St. Mark from wherever you are.

***October Rosaries:** Join us with your children on Wednesdays in October from 7:15 to 7:40 AM in the Cafetorium. Students awaiting class will pray the rosary each Wednesday from October 2-30. You may bring your own rosary or they will be provided in the Cafetorium. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by a 15th century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others. Today, as through history, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help.

***Prayer Walks:** We will conduct Prayer Walks on the first Friday of

drivers will be asked to present their driver's license to the staff member on duty.

PARISH MEET & GREET



All school families, and especially our new families, are invited to join us for the 4th Annual Parish Meet & Greet. Enjoy refreshments while you hear from our St. Mark ministries about ways to become involved in the parish community and have your questions answered. Children are welcome. Please RSVP to [Pam Steinkirchner](mailto:pam.steinkirchner@stmark.net).

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child? We have limited 2019-20 openings in select grade levels.



each month and hope you can join us. The next one will take place November 1.

*Prayer Requests:

Everyone is welcome to place prayer requests in the box on the prayer table located in the hallway between the Admin. offices and the Cafetorium. The 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, we hope you will also remember Pope Francis' monthly intentions:

October: A Missionary "Spring" in the Church - That the breath of the Holy Spirit engenders a new missionary "spring" in the Church.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF



Did you know? Preschool teacher, Megan Oliver, earned her B.S. degree in Health from Texas A&M

University, has a Region 10 EC-4 Teacher Certification, and is a certified religion teacher. She grew up in Plano, attended St. Mark Catholic School and Bishop Lynch High School. She has been in an educational setting since college, either working in childcare or in a classroom. She

Encourage prospective families to schedule 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!](#)

NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Basketball Registration is Open: Attention 5th-8th grade girls/boys interested in playing on a St. Mark basketball team -- registration is currently open. Divisions include JV (5th/6th grades) and Varsity (7th/8th grades). Please [click here](#) for more information and to register. Deadline = November 1.



Join us for the 6th Annual All Souls Remembrance Run on Saturday, November 2 on the St. Mark campus. This event benefits the Athletics Program. There will be a 1K "fun run" starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a chip-timed 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome in both categories. 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 and to learn more about volunteer opportunities and sponsorships. Service hours are available for middle school students. Contact Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net with questions.

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

and her husband have three children. Her hobbies include spending time with her family and outdoor recreational activities. She loves movies, popcorn, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups!

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF



It was all "treats" and no "tricks"

this past Wednesday thanks to the 2nd and 8th grades who hosted a fun "Halloween" themed teacher luncheon! Sandwiches, sides, desserts -- it was all "scary good!"

AROUND THE PARISH



Please join Bishop Burns as he consecrates Dallas to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to pray the rosary for our country on the anniversary of the Fatima Miracle of the Sun with over 1,200 locations across the U.S. and internationally -- Sunday, October 13, 2:00 PM, Flag Pole Hill Park,

submitted it will be bundled and ready for pick up on Friday. Note: Not all items available are offered online.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, November 2 for the 1st Annual HSA Chili Cook-Off! Questions and team entries can be sent to James Coulter and Rich Frei at hsachilicookoff@gmail.com.



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
REMEMBER THAT
YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT
TRAINING MUST BE
CURRENT.

2019-20 HSA 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. Below are the links to the 2019-20 HSA Committee and Room Parent Sign-Up Geniuses. All positions are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please consider lending your time and talents to these positions:

[Committee Sign-Up](#)
[Room Parent Sign-Up](#)

Preschool-2nd Grade Classroom Helpers

Needed: Please sign-up to help our teachers in the classroom with reading, paper pulling, and craft prep. All of the teachers have Sign-Up Geniuses with specific classroom needs. **Click here** to access the Sign-Up Geniuses for each teacher on the school website. Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#) or [Brandy Pazora](#).

8100 Doran Circle in Dallas. For more information, please [click here](#).



The St. Mark parish "Trunk or Treat" will take place on Friday, October 25 starting at 6:30 PM in the parking lot behind the school. Consider [signing up](#) to donate candy or decorate a trunk! It is a fun, family activity and a great way to earn service hours!

HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

HTS invites you to public mass. Each mass is followed by a reception hosted by the local Serran clubs where you can get to know the HTS seminarians.

Upcoming Mass Dates:

*October 6 & 13

Time:

9:15 AM

Location:

3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX

ECE Front Desk Volunteers Needed: Early Childhood needs volunteers to man the front desk each day, answering the door, the phone, and doing occasional craft prep. Volunteers may bring a book/work, and the desktop computer is available if needed. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM-2:00 PM, and Friday, 9:30AM-2:00 PM. Any amount of time is appreciated. Please [click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius, and be sure to include the hours you can volunteer in the "comments." Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#)

Library volunteers are needed for Kindergarten-8th Grade! Please visit the Library [Sign-Up Genius](#) to see the schedule of available times. There are plenty of opportunities!



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 contact the Helping Hands Committee

at www.stmcs.net/helping-hands.



Hooray for Box Tops! Download the Box Tops app and scan your receipt with eligible products within 14 days of purchase. For physical Box Tops, please carefully cut out unexpired Box Tops from participating brands

(expiration date must be visible); 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. Each Box Top submitted earns \$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here for details](#) . For more information, contact [Melissa King](#) or [Sharon Mattis](#) .



Shop at Kroger and Earn Money for St. Mark: Enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program and a percentage of your purchases will go to the St. Mark Home & School Association. [Click](#)

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 !

**Michelle Staubach Grimes
Author Visit:**



4th Grade Games:



Watch D.O.G.S.:



[here](#) for complete instructions. Kroger cards must be relinked to St. Mark every 12 months.

PAW PRIDE!



It has come to our attention that the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) recently revised their qualification criteria and as a result, several more St. Mark students qualified for the 4th-6th Grade Talent

Search based on last year's standardized test scores than were reported last week. Congratulations to all of our qualifiers, who represent 41% of 4th-6th grade students: **4th Grade:** Morgan B., Joseph B., Bebe C., Clara C., Vivian C., Charlie D., Nhiem H., Robert L., Isabelle M., Jacob N., Ava N., Alicja N., Naomi N., Maria Q., Keelan S., Sean S., Annette W.; **5th Grade:** Guru A., Dominic B., Christopher B., Sophie B., Carter D., Cooper D., Gavin D., Ansley D., Sophia E., Sienna G., Lincoln H., Omar J., Iahn K., Sterling K., Brandon L., Catalina M., Matthew M., Avery P., Marilyn P., Isabella S., Lucas T., Hudson W., Priscilla Y., Julia Z.; **6th Grade:** Karson A., William B., Harshdeep B., Emily B., Diya C., Adrian D., Ambrose D., Bianca G., Francisco G., Samuel H., Mason H., Paolina H., Reynold I., Ezekiel L., Maxwell M., Justin M., Nathan P., Pedro R., Nicholas R., Ethan S., Madison S., Jeslyn T., Quyendi T.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying and serving academically gifted and talented youth.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Math Counts:



ASP Fair Day:



Library Contest Winner:



Bishop's Invitational:





Alzheimer's Association Presenter:



PK4 Weather:



Kindergarten Gardening:



The John Paul II High School National Honor Society and Mu AlphaTheta students are offering six weeks of **ISEE Study Sessions** in preparation for the high school entrance exam. Sessions will take place every Tuesday from 3:45-4:45

PM from October 22-December 3 at John Paul II High School. The cost is \$30. Snacks will be provided. Participating 8th graders will meet Ms. Steinkirchner at the breezeway doors by the Cafetorium at dismissal and the JP II bus will transport students from St. Mark to JP II. Parents must pick-up students at the JP II main entrance at 4:45 PM. Please [click here](#) for details and registration.

JP II Monthly Information

Night! Information Nights are designed to introduce you to the John Paul II High School community. The evening begins with a short presentation followed by an extensive tour of the campus led by administration, teachers, and students. To register, please [click here](#).





The Bishop Lynch High School Volleyball team invites you to attend Future Friar Night at their games on October 17. Enjoy free admission, an autograph session, and games/prizes.



Join Bishop Lynch High School for their upcoming Future Friar Night at the Varsity Football game on Friday, October 25. In addition, they will be holding pregame activities, a special Band Clinic, and a Cheer/Dance Clinic. Please click the following links for complete details about the clinics:

[Band Clinic](#)
[Cheer Clinic](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)
[Admissions](#)
[Lunch Menus](#)
[Safe Environment](#)
[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)
[Work of Heart Nomination](#)

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on your social media!

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