



ST MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear St. Mark Catholic School Parents,

We have great news! We qualified again for Blue Ribbon! Our Blue Ribbon application is in the mail and we are confident that the Blue Ribbon Board will see what we already know about our school. **St. Mark Catholic School is truly exemplary!** This highlights the commitment of our teachers, faculty and you, our parents, to the best of Catholic education. Here at St. Mark, we seek for our school not only to be a place of excellence in academics, but also in faith and virtue. We are forming the next generation of Catholic servant leaders for our community.

To provide a great faith-based education requires multiple groups of people. Yes, it takes the teachers and faculty members. It takes the priests and ministers of the Church. And it takes you, the parents, and guardians of our children. You are the ones who provide the foundation for your children's academic and spiritual success.

You lead by example. Your affection for learning will transmit to your child. Your desire to live close to God will be followed. Your commitment to service will help create a heart for servant leadership for your children.

At St. Mark, we take our faith seriously and our expectation is that families in our school will seek to live out our vision statement.

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church creates welcoming communities that both provide life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ and form missionary disciples who transform the world for Christ, one person at a time.

If you have registered as a parishioner of St. Mark, then it is my expectation that you regularly attend Sunday Mass with us at St. Mark. I hope that your family can have regular family prayer at home. I expect that you talk about your faith at home (perhaps around the dinner table) and find ways that you can serve the community as a family.

As Catholic Christians, we do believe that giving intentionally to the parish is part of the life of an active parishioner. Several times throughout the year, I encourage parishioners to give a percentage of their income back to the Church. This is done as a sign of gratitude for what God has given. I also encourage parishioners to serve in the ministries and apostolates of the local parish and then make sure that they are regularly attending Mass and the other sacraments of the Church.

Thus, with this letter, I wanted to outline our minimum expectations for an inscribed parishioner of St. Mark.

- **Minimum Offering of \$1100 per year to the parish.**
- **Engaged in at least 1 activity of service within the parish / school.**
- **Participate in at least 25 Sunday Masses per year at St. Mark.**

These are considered the minimum to justly be considered an active parishioner within the parish. Although we can only track the parish offering for our school families, the other two aspects are still expectations. Moreover, we certainly welcome and want you to follow Christ in greater generosity. A disciple of Jesus doesn't seek after the minimum but seeks to give more fully their lives to Christ.

As we look forward to the new academic year of 2024-2025, we look forward to all the possibilities that our Catholic School will have. We look toward the growth of our children in their academics, virtue and faith. We know that our children will take one more step toward being a Christian servant leader.

Once again, I welcome each of you and am glad that you are part of our parish/school family. Together, we are doing great things at St. Mark Catholic School!

If you have any questions, we would enjoy hearing from you. Simply reach out to Mrs. Steinkirchner or I and we will be glad to hear from you.

In the Heart of Jesus Christ,

Fr. Jason Cargo
Pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church