



ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear St. Mark Catholic School Families,

At St. Mark Catholic School, we strive to create a community where excellence is not only pursued in academics but is deeply rooted in faith and virtue. This commitment to excellence is a shared mission—it requires the dedication of our teachers, faculty, and most importantly, you, our parents.

Together, we have achieved the honor of being recognized as a Blue Ribbon School. Yet, our work is far from over. Our ultimate goal is to form your child to be part of the next generation of Catholic servant leaders who will help transform the world for Christ.

Providing a truly faith-based education is a collaborative effort. It takes the dedication of our teachers and faculty, the guidance of the priests and ministers of the Church, and the leadership of you, the parents and guardians. Your role is foundational.

Your example shapes your children's journey. Your love of learning inspires them to embrace knowledge. Your devotion to living close to God encourages them to grow in faith. Your commitment to serving others plants the seeds of servant leadership in their hearts.

At St. Mark, we take our faith seriously, and we ask our school families to join us in living out our parish vision:

"St. Mark Catholic Church forms missionary disciples to transform the world by creating welcoming communities and providing life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ."

For those registered as parishioners at St. Mark, I invite you to fully engage in the life of the parish. This includes attending Sunday Mass at St. Mark regularly as a family, fostering a habit of family prayer, having meaningful conversations about faith at home, and finding ways to serve our community together.

As Catholic Christians, we also believe that intentional giving is a vital part of our discipleship. Throughout the year, I encourage parishioners to prayerfully consider giving a portion of their income back to the parish as an expression of gratitude for God's blessings. Serving in parish ministries, engaging with the sacraments, and contributing to the life of the parish are also integral to our identity as active Catholics.

To clarify what it means to be an active parishioner at St. Mark, I want to outline the following minimum expectations:

- **A minimum annual offering of \$1,100 to the parish.**
- **Active participation in at least one St. Mark parish ministry outside of our school.**
- **Attendance at a minimum of 30 Sunday Masses per year at St. Mark.**

While we primarily track financial contributions for our school families, the other two aspects remain important expectations. That said, as disciples of Christ, we are called not to seek the minimum but to embrace a spirit of generosity, giving our lives more fully to Him.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 academic year, I am excited for the opportunities ahead. I look forward to seeing our children grow in knowledge, virtue, and faith, taking steps toward becoming the servant leaders God has called them to be.

Once again, I welcome you to our parish and school family. Together, we are achieving greatness at St. Mark Catholic School! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Mrs. Steinkirchner** or me. Be assured of my prayers and blessings for your family.

In the Heart of Jesus Christ,

Fr. Jason Cargo

Pastor, St. Mark Catholic Church