



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

Weekly Bulletin

DRESS DOWN WEEK

The Christmas dress down week is **\$5 for the whole week OR \$2 per day**. Jeans may be worn, please follow dress down day guidelines.

12/15 - Holiday Hat

12/16- Hibernation Day (PJ's/Flannels)

12/17 - Sparkle Day

12/18 - Holiday Colors (red, white, green)

12/19 - Fun Holiday Shirt Day or Spirit Shirt

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14
Church/School Mass 8:30 a.m.

December 15-18
MS Midterms

December 15-19
Dress Down Week - \$5 for the week or \$2 per day

December 16
Band Concert - 2:30 p.m.

December 17
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - 2:00 p.m.

December 18
Christmas Pageant 6:30 p.m.

December 19
Early Release 12:00 p.m.
ASP Closes at 3:00 p.m.

December 22-January 5
Christmas Break

BUY A BRICK



Make your mark—literally! For just \$100, you can purchase a personalized Legacy Brick and become a permanent part of St. Mark's story.

Whether it's a Christmas gift, Graduation tribute, or a proud celebration of being a Lion, your brick will be a lasting symbol of love and support. Installed this spring at the school entrance and courtyard, it's a beautiful way to honor our vibrant St. Mark Catholic Community.

Order by December 19 to ensure your brick is placed this spring!

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

PLANO HOLIDAY PARADE

St. Mark is excited to participate in the Plano Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 PM! Our very own St. Mark float will be featured, and the St. Mark Choir will be spreading holiday cheer by singing along the route.

We'd love to see our families there—please come out and wave as we pass by!



SPRING CLUB - CLICK TO SIGN UP

CROCHET CLUB!

with Mrs. Matl & Mrs. Hernandez!

Are you creative and crafty? Do you love to make make things? Then join Crochet club!



GRADES 4-8

EVERY THURSDAY 3:30-4:30

JANUARY 8-APRIL 30

Students will learn basic and advanced crochet skills.
Supplies will be provided.
Fee- \$100 Monthly
Payment is due the first session of each month
Cash, Check, Zelle, or Venmo @julianne-matl

To sign up, use this google form or scan the QR code
<https://forms.gle/pP2Df8lZwVfpr3RYA>

Any questions email julianne.matl@stmcs.net



HSA

Save the Date: Raising Cane's Spirit Day on December 19th from 12 PM- 4 PM. Help us raise some money by heading over to Cane's across from school on the half day! Mention the fundraiser at the restaurant or use the code for online ordering. The school will receive 15% of the net sales.



Thank you to all who attended Cookies with Santa and thank you to our vendors! It was wonderful to have so many people attend! It was a magical afternoon!

NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

St Mark Parish Contributions

In order to maintain your discounted parishioner tuition rate, the minimum tithing of \$1,100 is due to the parish by December 31, 2025. Please do not send payment to the school.

If you have any questions regarding contributions made to date, please contact Nadya Collard, parish registrar, at ncollard@stmarkplano.org

Financial Aid

The school's financial aid website (<https://stmcs.net/financial-aid>) contains a full listing of all available financial aid as well as a link to the FACTS Grant and Aid Application. The first step for all financial aid awards is to complete the FACTS Grant and Aid Application.

The 2026-2027 form is now available. We are currently in the priority round (aka round 1) which closes December 20, 2025. This means the application must be submitted AND verified by FACTS by this date. If you receive notice from FACTS regarding missing information, it must be resolved in a timely manner. This is a busy time for FACTS so it can take up to two weeks to process financial aid applications.

Tuition and After School Care Receipts

FACTS has a payment summary feature that can be used to detail your FACTS payments. Log into RenWeb, click on financial in the bottom left to access your FACTS account. Step by step instructions can be found on the school website (<https://stmcs.net/facts-tuition-agreements>)

LIVING THE FAITH - FATHER JASON

We tend to compartmentalize different areas of our lives. That's not always a bad thing. For example, if we're under stress at work, it's wise not to bring that home. Or we may not share every detail of our family life with coworkers. This kind of separation can be helpful.

But when it comes to our faith, compartmentalization becomes harmful. Too often, we treat faith as something we do at church—or something our children do at their Catholic school. If we live like that, it sends a message: faith is only for certain places or times. That mindset leads to lukewarmness in our own hearts and, even more concerning, it gives an example to our children that allows them to easily drift away from the Church.

Instead, we must see our homes as domestic churches—places where faith is lived daily. That begins with prayer. Saying grace before meals is a great start, but it's not enough. Every day, find a moment when each family member can offer a simple prayer—whether it's a thanksgiving, a personal burden, or an intercession for someone in need.

What this looks like varies from family to family. Some may pray spontaneously. Others may pray the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or sing a hymn. Some families read a Scripture passage together. The form doesn't matter as much as the consistency. The important thing is that you're praying—daily—as a family.

Alongside prayer, talk about your faith. Let there be regular conversation about God at home. Mention what the priest wore at Mass or ask your children what they learned in religion class. Talk about the Pope or the upcoming feast day. These conversations don't have to be deep theological discussions—they just need to happen. A week should not go by without several faith-related conversations in the home.

Also, keep learning together. Watch faith-based shows or movies—*The Chosen* is an excellent example. Take an interest in what your child is learning in religious education. Maybe do a short family Bible study. The key is to learn the faith together.

And finally, celebrate the seasons and feasts of the Church. During Advent, gradually decorate your home and wait to place the baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve. On the Epiphany, bless your home with chalk and celebrate the Magi. In Lent, maybe pray the Stations of the Cross at home—I once drew them on the sidewalk with chalk during the pandemic. You can do things like that too. In Easter, sing joyful hymns together. And don't forget the feast days of the saints—celebrate with a special meal or activity.

When you do these things, you create a home that is not just fun, but faith-filled. A place where your children can grow and flourish in their relationship with Jesus. This is how we pass on the faith—not just by teaching it, but by living it together at home.

SCHOOL GALA

This year, all raffle tickets will be purchased virtually through the auction website - making it easier than ever to join the fun! Hop online, browse the baskets, and specify which basket you want your raffle tickets to go towards.

How to Join the Fun:

1. Click site below: [Auction Website](#)
2. Click "Tickets & Sponsorships" (Can also purchase your gala tickets while you're here!)
3. Scroll down to click the "Peanuts and Popcorn" option
4. Scroll down to click the "Raffle Tickets \$5 Each for Class Baskets" option
5. Select the number of tickets you would like to go towards each class basket
6. Click "Payment" & Checkout!

We have an incredible lineup of baskets this year, one from each of the grades, to support The Greatest School! Each child is encouraged to sell 10 tickets at \$5 a piece. All raffle proceeds go toward the gala fundraising goals. Tickets can be purchased through January 31st and the winners will be drawn the night of the gala. You do not have to be present to win a raffle basket.

RAFFLE BASKETS: \$5 PER CHANCE		RAFFLE BASKETS: \$5 PER CHANCE	
<p>PRE K3: "ULTIMATE DATE NIGHT" Treat yourself and your favorite "+1" to an unforgettable evening with this luxe date night themed basket. Start the night with a \$300 Perry's Steakhouse gift card. Keep the romance flowing with a bottle of Caymus and Riedel Heart to Heart Cabernet Sauvignon wine glasses because nothing says "We Deserve This" like a perfectly poured toast before or after dinner. VALUE: \$550</p> 		<p>4TH: BOOKWORM BASKET Curl up with this ultimate book-lover's basket including a 16GB Kindle with wireless charging dock with a case & screen protector! Tons of fun accessories make this basket a book-lovers dream! Plus a \$50 Barnes & Noble, \$25 Starbucks, and a \$50 Amazon gift cards! VALUE: \$460</p> 	
<p>PRE K4: "WHAT'S FOR DINNER" Dinner won't be a problem with this VAST collection of gift cards from Chili's, Subway, DoorDash, Freddie's, Outback, Cheesecake Factory, Cane's, Jersey Mikes, AMC, Cinemark, Pizza Hut, Velvet Taco and MORE! VALUE: \$575</p> 		<p>5TH: MARGARITA BEACH BAG Throw a fiesta or find yourself on a white sand beach ready for a good time with a turquoise Case-Mate Jelly tote filled with earrings, beaded blue glass tumblers, colorful napkins, cookbook & cocktail guide, hot sauces, mango & simple margarita mixers, salts & sugars and a bottle of tequila! VALUE: \$400</p> 	
<p>TK/KINDER: THE ULTIMATE BIRDIE This TEE-rific basket is perfect for any golf enthusiast! It includes an indoor/outdoor putting green, premium golf accessories (balls, hat, and head covers), and a \$150 PGA Store gift card — truly a hole-in-one! VALUE: \$500</p> 		<p>6TH: ULTIMATE GIRLY BASKET Treat yourself with this fabulous collection of beauty feel-good favorites. Featuring gift cards to Sephora & Nordstrom, a Kendra Scott bracelet, a Bogg Bag, and a coveted Shark Air Wrap, this basket is all about enjoying life's finer things. VALUE: \$460</p> 	
<p>1ST: FAMILY GAME NIGHT Elevate your family game night with stacks and stacks of new games, family score board, winner's trophy, St Mark tumblers & pillow, and tons of snacks and popcorn. VALUE: \$595</p> 		<p>7TH: POT OF GOLD Will you be a winner? Scratch to your heart's content with this HUGE assortment of lottery tickets! VALUE: \$400</p> 	
<p>2ND: FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS Capture the spirit of the legendary Fort Worth Stockyards with this beautifully curated Southwest-inspired trunk...bringing together the charm of Texas heritage, warmth of western style and flavors of the frontier. VALUE: \$560</p> 		<p>8TH: WORLD TRAVELER Get ready to jet set in style! This globe trotter's dream basket has everything you need for smooth, stress-free travel! Included in this wander-ready backpack is a \$50 Uber gift card, \$100 Southwest Airlines gift card, Apple Air Tags, noise cancelling headphones with case, packing cubes, his & hers compression socks, power bank chargers and a curated assortment of fun and functional travel essentials. VALUE: \$595</p> 	
<p>3RD: SPA & PAMPER This luxurious self-care basket is packed with beauty essentials and relaxation must-haves that turn any day into a blissful retreat. This pamper-perfect package includes Jiyu Tonight Polish Pads, Kitch heatless curling set and dermaplaners, Laneige Lip Care Kit, facial steamer, Stella & Grace eye masks, 7-color face and neck massager with light therapy, and more! VALUE: \$350</p> 			

A NOTE FROM MS. KIMBRIEL

As we approach the Christmas holiday, end-of-year stress can easily creep in. For some families, this means helping middle school students prepare for mid-terms; for others, it may involve juggling parades, Christmas pageants, and festive activities with younger children. Whatever phase your family is in, this season can be busy—and routines often fall out of sync.

I want to gently remind everyone how important consistency is during this time, both for you and for your children. Kids thrive when their routines and boundaries remain predictable. When those begin to shift, you may notice more irritability, acting out, or shutting down. Creating small daily anchors—even in the middle of the holiday chaos—can make a meaningful difference. This might look like starting the after-school routine the same way each day, sitting down for family dinners, or maintaining a consistent bedtime routine. These simple habits help students know what to expect and reduce anxiety.

Sleep is especially important this time of year. Most of our students need around 10 hours of sleep each night. While it may be tempting for middle schoolers to stay up late studying for mid-terms, research shows that well-rested brains learn and perform significantly better. Parents can support this by limiting screen time in the evenings and encouraging students to study outside of their bedrooms. Once they head to bed, their brains should associate that space with sleep, making it easier to unwind and rest.

Students may also feel more anxious during this season. Encourage them to use coping skills such as deep breathing, taking a walk, or writing down overwhelming thoughts. Remind them that stepping outside their comfort zone can feel intimidating, but it builds resilience and often leads to meaningful growth.

Above all, enjoy this special time together and soak up the sweet memories that come with the holidays of childhood. Wishing your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



JOY PARK

We are so grateful to the Osong family for generously providing free student tickets to the Christmas Joy Park Event. Tickets have been sent home with your children—don't miss this festive experience!



PARISH NEWS

Live Nativity

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 6:15PM - 7:45PM
AROUND THE CHURCH CAMPUS
SWEET BREAD | HOT CHOCOLATE | ACTIVITIES

A GUIDED WALK THROUGH THE
MYSTERIES OF THE NATIVITY



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WEEK IN THE LIFE:

