



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

Weekly Bulletin

WELCOME BACK



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18th

6:00 - Band/Orchestra Info Parent Meeting- Cafeteria

August 19th

6:00 Middle School Parent Information Night - Cafeteria

August 20st

6:00 Preschool-5th Grade Parent Information Night - Cafeteria

August 21st

HSA Coffee 8:00 - Cafeteria

August 22nd

3rd-8th Reconciliation Following Mass

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

With grit forged over a decade and a love for pushing the limits, our very own Dr. Blankenship has earned a spot among the fittest on earth in the Masters 55-59 division. She competes at the Cross Fit Games on August 21-24th in Columbus, OH.

At the Cross Fits games, Dr. B will showcase not only athleticism, but resilience, and determination. Please pray for strength and fortitude! Good luck Dr. B!!



WELCOME BACK

Welcome Back to St. Mark! What a wonderful first week of school – smiles, hugs, laughter, and a very successful Back to School Sunday. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are so blessed to have you as part of our school community.

This summer our school had a lot of work done both visible and behind the scenes. Items such as enhanced security protocols, office changes, we have added new artwork throughout all the buildings, improved the After School area, added new basketball goals, and started the playground cover project. But the most exciting is the brand-new roof over the gyms, cafeteria, kitchen, and part of the main building. We have 5 new teachers, a new full-time aid, and a School Counselor.

This year is bursting with possibilities—new friendships to make, knowledge to discover, and ways to grow in our Catholic faith. We will pray together, learn together, and serve together, embracing every opportunity to live out our calling as disciples of Christ. Our days will be filled with curiosity, laughter, and a commitment to excellence in all we do. I cannot wait to see joy in our students' faces, the dedication of our teachers in action, and the partnership of our amazing parents in making the 2025-2026 school year our best yet.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education. What a wonderful gift you are giving to your children – the gift of faith, relationships, a rigorous education, to strive for excellence, and to form a servant's heart. And yes, these are our new pillars of the school – Faith, Relationships, Education, Excellence & Service. Our theme this year is Forming Servant Hearts.

Again, thank you for a wonderful partnership between your home and our school and I pray God blesses each of you abundantly as we set out on this journey of faith and learning together.

Peace & Prayers,
Pam



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

LETTER FROM THE FATHER JASON

A New School Year – A New Beginning in Christ

As we begin a new school year, we enter a season of new beginnings—fresh starts, new routines, and renewed hopes. It's the perfect time to reflect on what matters most in a Catholic education. At St. Mark, our highest goal is this: that you and your children grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

There's nothing more important in life than following Jesus as Lord. He's the one who opens doors for us here on earth, and if we follow Him as His disciples, He will open the doors of heaven for us as well. At the end of the day, we all want to go to heaven—and there's no greater act of love for our children than helping them walk with Jesus.

Two powerful Gospel verses come to mind.

- In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus says, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."*
- And in **John 14:6**, He declares, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

The message is clear: we don't slide into eternal life by accident. We follow Jesus intentionally. We live as His disciples. That's what I want for you. That's what I want for your children.

Remember this: Jesus loves you more than you can imagine. He died on the Cross for you, carrying your sins. You've probably heard this before—but don't let it become background noise. Let it sink in: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gave His life for you. He rose from the dead to give you new life. Through baptism, He gave you a new identity—as a beloved child of God—and He promised to be with you always.

But as with any gift, we have a choice. We can treasure it, or we can leave it unopened. If we go through life ignoring the gift of salvation and never truly follow Jesus, we risk hearing those chilling words from Matthew 7:23: *"I never knew you. Depart from me."*

The greatest gift of all—salvation—comes alive in a life lived for Jesus. We experience His love on earth and one day will celebrate it in eternity.

That's why our Catholic school exists. Discipleship is not something we live out alone. We need each other. We need a community to support and inspire us. This is why I invite you and your family to attend the 8:30 am Sunday Mass. Come and worship with us. Sit with classmates and fellow parents. Share in the joy of faith, and stay afterward to reconnect. Together, we can help one another grow as disciples.

Over the next several months, I'll be writing more about how we grow in this way of life. Topics will include:

1. Our Response to God's Love: Daily Prayer
2. Meeting Jesus at Mass
3. Serving Together as a Family
4. Living the Faith at Home

Until the next article, I invite you to make this simple prayer part of your daily routine:

Daily Prayer for Discipleship

Loving Father,

Open my heart to hidden realities: Your love for me and for all people, and Your presence in our community. Christ Jesus, help me to receive Your saving love and to imitate You in all I do.

Holy Spirit, grant me the grace and gifts I need to live as Your disciple today.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HSA



Thank you to everyone who joined us at Back to School Sunday. We appreciate all in attendance and extend our sincere appreciation to all of the parent, faculty and student volunteers.

For those who were unable to sign up to express interest in volunteer activities, we have included links below for opportunities where online sign-ups exist. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all involvement opportunities, so please keep a look out for additional information on volunteer opportunities in the newsletter. Every volunteer must be Safe Environment cleared.

- HSA – <https://forms.gle/hQMeWBDxt8s1T3Kx5>
- Bookfair – <https://forms.gle/gceUxzNra2YVLR3VA>
- Chili Cookoff Participant – <https://forms.gle/nbKivDG9JaEZR5Yx7>
- Chili Cookoff Volunteer – <https://forms.gle/NDcWsk7qshZtXvc99>
- Family Fun Day Volunteer – <https://forms.gle/oKvHBauaDsUo4Eoy8>
- PAWS – <https://forms.gle/Mur7fEE1Qn4YMt2d8>
- Schola Cantorum – <https://forms.gle/nRq9nFebGaFSkBnSA>
- Prayer Team - <https://forms.gle/A1RQwAoDGwPAQptm6>
- Junior Achievement - <https://forms.gle/Tvbc6tiZDT1Z6yDc6>

P.A.W.S.

Please sign up to volunteer at school to help in any of the following ways: Prefect monitor, Library volunteer, Paper pulling, ECE Craft Preparation, and guest reader. All volunteers must be Safe Environment Cleared.

[PAWS schedule \(Fall 2025\)](#)

Service Event

Please join the St. Mark School community in our first community service event on August 20th from 9-10:45 AM at Feed My Starving Children in Richardson. Please use the link to sign up. If you already have an account, the join code is 51E7WV.

<http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=51E7WV>

Volunteer Agreement

In order to be a school volunteer this year, you must sign and turn in the Volunteer Agreement. All volunteers must have this signed before the first day of volunteering. Please return the completed form to the front office.



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

St. Mark Catholic School offers multiple clubs for different age groups. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

KIDS CAN COOK



4 WEEK SESSION

- Week 1- Breakfast
- Week 2- lunch
- Week 3- Dinner
- Week 4- Dessert

Thursdays- 3:30-4:45

SESSION 1:
• Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 25

SESSION 2:
• Oct. 9, 16, 30 Nov. 6

SESSION 3:
• Nov. 13, 20 Dec. 4, 11

Students in grades 3-5 are invited to join the Kids Can Cook after school cooking club. Cost per session: \$120. Students will prep and cook a meal each week. At the end students will have a recipe card for each week.

RICH FREI AND AMY GARRISON
INTRODUCE:
MATH PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION
By Tri Core Foundation
For Students In Grades 6-8

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:
AMY.GARRISON@STMCS.NET

Club days (a total of 10 Thursdays throughout the school year) will be used for test practice, puzzle problem solving and competition test administration. Students participate in three (3) contests during the year, and each contest has 11-12 word problems. Contests are completed in school and have a 35 min. time limit. Students with the highest total scores on all 3 contests win cash prizes and trophies.

The top 30 finishers in each grade win cash. Last year St. Mark students won prizes totaling over --\$2,000!



1st grade - 3rd grade ART CLUB

Thursdays 3:30-4:30

Students will explore art media and techniques, such as sketching, pottery, sculptures, painting on canvases, holiday crafts, etc.
Contact Ms. Tammy, tammy.williams@stmcs.net
Fee: \$100 monthly

JEWELRY CLUB

with Ms. Bakich and Mrs. Jackson

metal stamping
monogram charms
beads
stringing
clay
shrinky dinks
rosary
and so much more!!

Open to 1st-5th grade
Register Now!

TUESDAYS 3:30 - 4:45
\$225 PER SEMESTER

Sep. 16th, 23rd, 30th Oct. 7th, 21st Nov. 4th, 11th Dec. 2nd, 16th




4th grade - 8th grade ART CLUB

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30

Students will explore art media and techniques, such as sketching, pottery, sculptures, painting on canvases, holiday crafts, etc.
Contact Ms. Tammy, tammy.williams@stmcs.net
Fee: \$100 monthly

MUSIC LEARNING BAND
ST. MARK SCHOOL
WWW.MUSICLEARNINGBAND.COM

ST. MARK BAND & STRINGS



BAND AT ST. MARK TWICE A WEEK
SCHOOL CONCERTS
PEP RALLIES
BAND PARTIES
MAIN EVENT PARTY
DALLAS STARS GAME & PERFORMANCE
SPRING CONCERT & TOUR - LOCATION TBA
BAND CAMP AT LAKE MURRAY

TUES & THURS
3:30-4:15 BEGINNER BAND
4:15-5:00 INTERMEDIATE BAND
2:45-3:30 ADVANCED BAND

BAND DIRECTOR
KATRINA CHIUMINATTO
KCHIUMINATTO@MUSICLEARNINGBAND.COM



CHESS CLUB

WITH MS. BAKICH 2025-2026

Any level player, 2nd grade and up!

Snacks and skills

Tournaments, awards, prizes, and more!

Register Now!

Registration deadline September 7th
\$250 per semester
Mondays 3:30-4:30

Sep. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Oct. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th Dec. 1st, 8th

chess.bakich@gmail.com



St Mark Children's Choir

September 2025 - May 2026

The St. Mark Music Department looks forward to an exciting year of music making with your child. It is a privilege to serve you and your family. The Children's Choir accommodates children in 2nd grade through 8th grade. Patty Corsi is the director/accompanist and Janice Gidyczewski and Julie Freeman are the assistants.

Registration / Commitment Form **MUST BE** turned in to participate in the choir.

First Day of Choir, Monday, September 8.

Rehearsal - Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in school music room 141.

Children dismissed from St. Mark School at 3:30 p.m. needing supervision until choir rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. must inform the Music Director. The children will be supervised and escorted to the music room by one of the assistants.

1. Please supply your child with a nut-free after school snack.
2. Encourage your child to catch up on homework or reading while waiting for their rehearsal to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Pick-Up - 6:00 p.m. in the school parking lot between the gym and the Smart Lab. Pick-Up on Church Rehearsal Days is at the church parking lot.

Children that are not picked up ON TIME will be taken to After School Care located on the south east side of 15th and Alton. The Parent will be charged ASP rates.

***Parents: Please email the music director at patty.corsi@stmcs.net to inform us if your child will miss choir rehearsal so we are not looking for them. We look forward to seeing your child in choir. Truly yours,

Patty Corsi, Director
Janice Gidyczewski, Assistant Director
Julie Freeman, Assistant Director

Back to School




SCHOOL GALA

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR FASTPASS YET?

[Click HERE to order Fast Pass](#)

New this year, Fast Pass covers dress down days for your student's BIRTHDAY WEEK & CHRISTMAS WEEK! Summer or holiday birthdays can choose a week to use as their birthday week, please communicate the chosen week with your homeroom teacher. Fast Pass includes 6 themed dress down days throughout the year and 2 popcorn sales as well as 3 jeans passes and 3 sneaker passes. It's a convenient way to prepay for miscellaneous optional activities as well as support the auction, library, student council and Make-A-Wish. Please note, each student will need their own pass.

JEAN PASS	JEAN PASS	SEPTEMBER 18 CIRCUS DRESS DOWN	FEBRUARY 17 MARDI GRAS DRESS DOWN
JEAN PASS	MAKE-A-WISH POPCORN	SEPTEMBER 22 BOOK CHARACTER DRESS DOWN	MARCH 13 GREEN DRESS DOWN
SNEAKER PASS	YEARBOOK POPCORN	NOVEMBER 11 RED, WHITE & BLUE DRESS DOWN	April 29 CHARITY OF CHOICE DRESS DOWN
SNEAKER PASS	SNEAKER PASS	CHRISTMAS WEEK DRESS DOWN	BIRTHDAY WEEK (TUESDAY & THURSDAY) DRESS DOWN

**UNDER THE BIG TOP
THIS IS THE GREATEST SCHOOL**
ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL GALA 2020

**ROARING WITH SCHOOL SPIRIT
AND BIDDING LION FAMILIES FROM CONTRACT TO CLOSE**

Helping St. Mark families *Live. Dream. Roar.*
Whether you're buying, selling, or just wanting
to be lion-foal—I've got you covered.

FLORENCE ALLWOOD
PROUD ST. MARK MOM | LUXURY REALTOR®
972.890.2874
FlorenceAllwood@pmr.com
FlorenceAllwood@pmr.com
@FloAllwoodRealty

DAVE PERCY-MILLER

Jean & Sneaker Passes may only be used on Tuesdays and Thursdays

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARPOOL RAFFLE WINNERS, THE VU, GALLEGOS, AND HOWELL FAMILIES!



SMART FAMILIES

JOIN US ON
OCTOBER 8 AT 6:00 PM OR
OCTOBER 9 AT 8:15 AM

Parent Education

Unveiling the Impact of Technology on Child Development



Have you ever wondered how technology use is affecting your child's development? Learn about one of the **most important topics for parents this century**. Hear from Dr. Crystal Collier about technology and the growing brain.

Learn how technology use impacts
academic, emotional, and
relational functioning.

Crystal Collier, PhD, is a therapist, prevention researcher, and educator named counselor of the year in 2019 by the Houston Association of Counselor. She specializes in empowering parents to protect childrens' developing brains.

LEARN

MORE



WEEK IN THE LIFE:

