



## ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

### NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

**Early Giving has Started!**

**This year, our goal is to raise \$100,000 to refresh our school’s playground—starting with replacing the woodchip mulch with safer, longer-lasting rubber mulch!**

By investing in this upgrade, we’re enhancing the safety, cleanliness, and overall experience of outdoor play for students. Your support will make a lasting impact on the health, happiness, and success of our school community.

**Let Mulch Madness begin!**

Thank you for your continued support.

Click [HERE](#) to donate!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15-16  
NWEA Testing 1-8<sup>th</sup>

September 17-19  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pines

September 18  
NTXGD and DDD \$2 “We are Going to the Circus” \*ECE will celebrate Circus Day on September 30

# SAVE THE DATE

## NTXGD



### 9.18.25

# PLAYGROUND REFRESH



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

# SMART FAMILIES

Beyond Balance: The Hidden Sense Behind Learning -  
September 15th

Join Pediatric Occupational Therapist Sophie Kriss as she shines a light on the vestibular system, the “hidden sense” that does far more than maintain physical balance. This powerful system fuels learning, focus, emotional regulation, and everyday success. Together, we’ll explore how too much screen time and not enough movement can impede its development. We’ll also share simple, practical ways to help children’s brains and bodies thrive this year.



Three sessions are available:

- 9:00 a.m.
- 12:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m.

Anyone who would like to attend can RSVP here:

<https://www.smart-families.org/events>



**Beyond Balance:  
The Hidden Sense Behind Learning**

September 15th 9am - 12pm - 7pm

## CARPOOL

1. During morning drop off please wait until your car is close to the entrance to let your children out of the car.
2. For the safety of our children, please do not walk your students to the cafe doors during drop off. Parents should follow the drop off procedures in the Parent Student Handbook on pages 82-85.
3. Families that pickup in the front circle may not line up in front of the church Narthex, this is a one way area.

## TESTING

NWEA MAP testing will take place on Monday and Tuesday. All 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must have their Chromebooks fully charged and bring chargers to school.

# NOTE FROM FATHER JASON

## Our Response to God's Love: Daily Prayer

When we think of our Catholic faith, we often think of prayer. We know prayer means talking to God, asking Him for help, and sometimes even listening for His voice. Many of us understand that prayer is necessary for our spiritual life—but too often, we treat it like just another task on our to-do list. We forget that prayer isn't something we have to do; it's something we get to do.

I don't know what your prayer life looks like. Some of you have a set time for daily prayer. But I imagine many of you struggle to find that time. Life is full—between work, kids, errands, and responsibilities, you're tired by the end of the day. And when you do pray, it might just be a few memorized words before bed.

If that sounds like you, you're not alone. I get it—I've been there too.

But if we look honestly at our day, we might find that we do have time to pray. We're just giving that time to something else—watching YouTube, scrolling through Instagram, checking email or texting. Our screens give us a quick escape, some instant gratification. And while that's not always bad, it's easy to let those little escapes start running our lives.

If we want to grow in prayer, we have to make a choice. We need to say no to the distractions and yes to God.

Part of the reason we struggle with prayer is that we forget what it really is. The Catechism says this:

“God calls man first. Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call.” (CCC 2567)

Prayer is a response to the God who calls us, who made us for Himself, and who invites us to rest in His love. Think of prayer like talking with a good friend—one who is wise, who listens, and who always gives the best advice. Or think of it like speaking with someone you love—someone you delight in.

There are many kinds of prayer: adoration, thanksgiving, petition, intercession, and listening. But at its heart, prayer is a conversation with God.

So I invite you to take a moment and reflect:

What's one step you can take to deepen your prayer life?  
Maybe it's putting down the phone and picking up the rosary.  
Maybe it's going for a walk in nature and speaking to God as you go.  
Maybe it's sitting in silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

Whatever it is, remember: God is already waiting for you. He's ready to speak with you. His love is calling!



## SAVE THE DATE

Please click [HERE](#) to register your child's grandparent for September 26th!

JOIN US FOR



Grandparents &  
Special Guest Day

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2025

**Details**

- Join us to celebrate 8:30 am Mass in the church
- Please arrive at the church by 8:15- backpacks are not necessary today. Students may either be dropped off at regular time or can arrive with their guest at the church and not be counted tardy. They will sign in at their class after Mass.
- Children may sit with their grandparents except for TK/Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who will sit with their classes for a presentation.
- After Mass Grandparents/guests will visit classrooms, the cafeteria for muffins and coffee, and the Book Fair.
- There will be photo opportunities throughout the school
- If you would like to take your grandchild home early, please check them out with their classroom teacher.



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

# HSA

## Book Fair Volunteers:

The St. Mark Book Fair will be held from Sept. 22-26. We need volunteers to make the St. Mark Book Fair a success! There are many shifts still available! Please use the following link to sign up and help make this year's fair a success!

[Book Fair Volunteer Sign Up](#)

## Book Fair General Information and E-Wallets:

All the Book Fair information, including schedules, donating to teacher e-wallets, and setting up your child's e-wallet, can be found at our book fair website. Though the fair accepts cash and credit card, an e-wallet allows your child to shop with a limit without worrying about lost cash or credit cards. Please use the link below to find more information.

[St. Mark Book Fair Information](#)

## 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 \(Fall 2025\)](#)

Safe Environment completion is due by **SEPTEMBER 14** in order to volunteer at any time during the 2025-2026 school year!

## St. Mark's Spirit Night at Raising Cane's:

Mark your calendars! Join us **Friday, September 26 from 12-4 PM** at Raising Cane's (across from the school) for a **fun afternoon with friends and great food**. Mention "St. Mark" when you order (or use code **RCFUND96** online/app) and Cane's will donate **15% of sales** back to our school. Let's raise some funds while enjoying that Cane's goodness!

Family Fun Day: Save October 18th from 6-9 PM for the annual Family Fun Day! It is always a fun-filled community event. More information will be coming in the next few weeks

## Helping Hands

This committee aids families in need. To refer a family, please use this link. [Helping Hands Referral](#)

**Book Fair eWallet is the easy way to pay**

AVAILABLE BETWEEN:

**9/1-9/26**

Create a **NEW eWallet** for each Fair

- Students shop without cash
- Teachers build classroom libraries

OCTOBER 18, 2025

**SAVE THE DATE**

Chili Cook-off  
Trunk or Treat  
Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
Concessions  
Movie on the Turf Field

## HELPING HANDS

SAINT MARK'S HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE WORKS TO AID FAMILIES IN NEED. NEEDS MIGHT INCLUDE MEALS, CARPOOL OR OTHER ASSISTANCE DURING A:

- SURGERY
- DEATH IN THE FAMILY
- NEW BABY
- OTHER EVENT

REFER A FAMILY IN NEED AT THIS LINK:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/TMJOE1NSC19Z6K6](https://forms.gle/TMJOE1NSC19Z6K6)

# SCHOOL GALA

The gala team is happily and gratefully accepting items for Live & Silent Auction! We are looking for gift cards, timeshares, rental homes, curated experiences, sporting event tickets, musical performance tickets, cosmetics, home goods, toys...no item is too big or too small! Thank you in advance for your generosity!  
[Click Here to Donate!](#)



# SPIRIT NIGHT

## JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER *at*

Friday September 26th | 12:00PM - 4:00PM  
Raising Cane's - 1000 W 15th Street, Plano

Mention the fundraiser at the Restaurant or apply code **RCFUND96** to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will **donate 15% of Net Sales\*** to:  
St. Marks Spirit Night

*ONE LOVE* *LOVE*

*Raising Funds with Raising Cane's*

Learn more about how we can support you at [CanesAndCommunity.com](http://CanesAndCommunity.com)

\*Minimum donation amount will be 15% of the Net Sales\* donated directly to your organization. Not valid on kiosk orders. "Net Sales" means the purchase price of food and beverages sold during the event to customers who mention your organization when ordering in person or use the code RCFUND96 when ordering online or in the Raising Cane's app. The purchase price excludes special or limited time offers, discounts, rebates, and taxes. "Net Sales" does not include gift cards and retail merchandise purchases.

RaisingCanes

# PARISH NEWS

## St. Mark FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD, FUN & FAITH

**SEPTEMBER 27**

4PM TO 10PM

1201 ALMA DRIVE, PLANO, TX

Is the Bible relevant today? Is there more to life than this? Do you ever pray? Who was Jesus? What does faith mean to you?

At Alpha, you can ask anything - it's a safe space to question life, faith, and meaning. Everyone is welcome.

You're invited no matter your background or beliefs. Alpha is free, and there's no pressure to come back.

EVERYONE WELCOME

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Thursday September 18th 7pm - 9 pm**

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Parish Center  
1105 West 15th Street  
Plano, TX 75075

[stmarkplano.org/alpha](http://stmarkplano.org/alpha)

# WEEK IN THE LIFE:

