



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

GO LIONS

9/27 Games

5th Grade Girls Volleyball

9:00 AM St. Mark (A) vs MIS Red (H) MIS Gym

10:00 AM St. Mark (A) vs STA 5th Sapphi (H) MIS Gym

7th Grade Girls Volleyball Gold

3:00 PM St. Mark 7th Gold (A) vs St. Cecilia Bulldogs (H) St. Cecilia Bulldogs Gym

4:00 PM St. Mark 7th Gold (A) vs St. Philip-St. Augustine (H) St. Cecilia Bulldogs Gym

7th Grade Girls Volleyball Green

11:00 AM STA 7th Silver (A) vs St. Mark 7th Green (H) St. Patrick

12:00 PM Holy Trinity GOLD (A) vs St. Mark 7th Green (H) St. Patrick

8th Grade Girls Volleyball Gold

11:00 AM St. Mark V Gold (A) vs St. Patrick (H) St. Bernard

12:00 PM St. Mark V Gold (A) vs St. Bernard SBS Girls (H) St. Bernard

8th Grade Girls Volleyball Green

11:00 AM St. Mark V. Green (A) vs POP POP 8D2 (H) St. Joseph

12:00 PM St. Mark V. Green (A) vs St. Joseph Maroon (H) St. Joseph

9/28 Games

JV Flag Football Green

1:00 PM St. Mark Green (A) vs MIS Red (H) St. Joseph-Richardson

2:00 PM St. Joseph-Richardson (A) vs St. Mark Green (H) St. Joseph-Richardson

JV Flag Football Gold

9/28 2:00 PM St. Mark Gold (A) vs MIS Blue (H) St. Mark Templeton Field

Varsity Flag Football

4:00 PM St. Mark (A) vs MIS (H) St. Mark Templeton Field

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26

Grandparent's Day; Mass 8:30AM; Early Release 12:00PM

September 27

Parish Fall Festival

October 8

Smart Families Presentation 6:00 p.m.

October 9

Student Picture Retakes/Class Pictures (Formal Uniform), Smart Families Presentation 8:15 a.m.



SMART FAMILIES



**SMART
FAMILIES**
SHAPING SOULS

SAVE THE DATE

Who is Smart Families:

Our mission is to empower families to build communities that engage with technology in a healthy, intentional way that is respectful of our innate human dignity.

Please mark your calendars for:

PARENT EVENT

Know Your Neuro:
Brain Development Explained
by Dr. Crystal Collier

October 8th 6:00 PM

October 9th 8:15 AM



FAMILY EVENT

Family Code Workshop:
Collaborate with Your Family to
Define Your Values

January 24

6:00pm



TOPICS COVERED:

Adolescent Brain Development
Risky Behaviors
Addictive Algorithms
Online Safety
Social Media's Impact on Mental Health



**Proud to be a
Smart Families School.**



We are excited to invite you to the Smart Families parent presentation in October. The “Know Your Neuro” presentation will cover topics such as brain development, addictive algorithms, online safety, and social media’s impact on mental health.

The presentation will be held on October 8th at 6:00 p.m. and October 9th at 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria.

If you plan on attending the presentation on October 9th, please click [HERE](#) to complete the form so we can print a visitor badge ahead of time. No RSVP is needed for October 8th.

HSA

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

Mark your calendars! Join us **today, 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!

Lions Share Uniform Store:

The Uniform Store will be open on **Saturday, October 11 from 1:30-3:00 PM**.

Save the Date: Little Rome Spirit Night - October 14



Join us for a **St. Mark Spirit Night at Little Rome on Tuesday, October 14 - ALL DAY (11 a.m. - 10 p.m.)**
Remember to **mention St. Mark when ordering**.

Little Rome is located at 2707 West 15th Street in Plano.

FAMILY FUN DAY



Join us for an evening of fun competition, trunk or treat, and movie under the stars. To register for the various events or volunteer at the Family Fun Day, please click on the following links:

[Volunteer Sign-ups](#)

[Pumpkin Decorating and Trunk or Treat Registration](#)

[Chili Cook-off Registration](#)

NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Tithing

As a reminder, one of the requirements to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount is a minimum tithing of \$1100 must be paid by December 31, 2025. If you have questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard in the Parish Office. Nadya can be reached at (972) 423-5600 ext 258 or ncollard@stmarkplano.org.

Payment Options

- Check (payable to St. Mark Catholic Church) may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office. Please note that Contribution envelopes are not required. You can write your name and envelope number on your own envelope. If you do not have your number or envelope, the parish office will be able to identify your account based on your name and address.
- Online donations on the parish website <https://stmarkplano.org/donate> Setting up a recurring donation is the preferred method.
- If you are putting cash in the collection baskets, you must use your parishioner envelope or put your name and address (and your envelope number if you have it) on your own envelope in order to get credit.

School Financial Statements

In accordance with the Diocese of Dallas Policy on Financial Management and Administration, an independent CPA firm conducted an Agreed Upon Procedures Review for the 2024-2025 school year. The school's financial reports from that review are attached to this email.

NOTES FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

We are excited to announce the launch of a new visitor check-in program designed to enhance the safety and security of our school community. All visitors are required to sign in and out using the Raptor Visitor Management System.

To make this process as quick and easy as possible, we encourage you to download and install the Raptor Safe App on your smartphone. With the app, you'll be able to check in and out more efficiently—reducing wait times and eliminating the need to scan your driver's license each time you visit.

Please see the attached instructions for how to download and set up the Raptor Safe App on your device.

Note: When prompted for an invitation code during setup, simply click "continue without a code"

Once you're set up, the process is simple: just scan the QR code on the iPad kiosk upon arrival, and your visitor badge will be printed instantly.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and visitors. If you have any questions or need assistance installing the app, please don't hesitate to contact us at frontoffice@stmcs.net.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

No matter what grade your child is in here at St. Mark, their brain is in an incredible season of growth and change. Between early childhood and adolescence (ages 3-15), the brain develops rapidly—laying the foundation for habits, skills, and patterns that can last a lifetime.

One important part of this process is something called myelination, which helps the brain create and strengthen pathways. Think of it as “paving the roads” in your child’s brain. This is why the habits and skills children practice in their early years—such as healthy routines and emotional skills—are so influential for the future.

When it comes to emotional regulation, the role of parents and caregivers is powerful. How we respond to our children’s emotions—whether they are sad, frustrated, or angry—shapes how they learn to handle feelings throughout life. Research shows, children who develop strong emotional regulation in their younger years often experience fewer struggles with school and relationships later on.

So, how can we as adults help? Developmental psychology expert, Melanie Zimmer-Gembeck describes it this way:

- Emotion Coaching – Using moments of strong emotions as opportunities to guide children. This might mean helping them name the feeling, talk about what caused it, and practice a healthy way to respond. Over time, children learn that emotions are not something to fear or avoid but signals they can understand and manage.

When it comes to putting this in practice, small steps can make a big difference. Simple questions like, “How did that make you feel?” or “What might you do differently next time?” can spark meaningful conversations. Children also learn by watching how we handle our own emotions. That’s why it’s important for them to see us experiencing a range of feelings, talking about them in age-appropriate ways, and demonstrating healthy coping strategies. These everyday moments not only build your child’s emotional resilience but also strengthen your connection with them.

✨ Want to learn more? [Here’s a helpful article with strategies for parents to support children’s emotional development.](#)

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!](#)

Click the link for moms to buy tickets for the Holiday Cocktail Mixology & Shopping Party:

<https://secure.etransfer.com/STMCS/ChristmasCocktail.cfm>



please join us for a

Cocktail Mixology & Shopping Party

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

6-9 PM

ATTEND A MASTER MIXOLOGY CLASS FEATURING 3 CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS & DO SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING! 15% OF ALL SALES AT VIVI'S DURING PARTY WILL BE DONATED TO THE AUCTION.

VIVI'S BOUTIQUE
635 WEST CAMPBELL ROAD, SUITE 236,
RICHARDSON, TX 75080

\$75 PER TICKET, LIMIT 30 ATTENDEES
NET PROFIT FROM TICKET SALES GO TO AUCTION

ATTIRE IS CHRISTMAS SPARKLE



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

Chaveable
ONE LOVE
Raising Funds with Raising Cane's
LOVE

Learn more about how we can support you at 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, returns, and taxes. *Net Sales* does not include gift cards and retail merchandise purchases.



PARISH NEWS

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St. Mark FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD, FUN & FAITH

SEPTEMBER 27

4PM TO 10PM

📍 1201 ALMA DRIVE, PLANO, TX

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PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

This weekend we celebrate Priesthood Sunday. Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one and we specifically honors priests, without whom the Mass could not be offered, and Sacraments could not be celebrated. We are very thankful to our St. Mark priests, our pastor, Fr. Jason Cargo, Fr. Jack Hopka, Fr. Michael Likoudis, and Fr. Peter Whitfield. Thank you all for all you do for the St. Mark community.

WEEK IN THE LIFE:

