



St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
October 17, 2014

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Virtue of the Month – Empathy

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using either stories or activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Empathy" this month.

Reminders for Next Week

2nd Grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass, and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Friday, October 17 (TODAY): Last Day for All Souls Run \$25 "Early Bird" Entry Fee

Monday, October 20: 2nd Quarter Begins

Students may not wear uniform shorts to school until the 4th quarter.

Monday, October 20, 7:00 PM, Parish Center: Parent/Teen Confirmation Meeting (English)

Monday, October 20, 3:30-4:00 PM: Session I After-School Enrichment Clubs Begin

Tuesday, October 21: Parent Thank-You Cards Due for Priesthood Sunday

Wednesday, October 22, 2:30 PM, Church: Living Rosary Presented by 5th Grade

Thursday, October 23, 10:45-11:30 AM, New Gym: Fall Pep Rally

Thursday, October 23, 12:00 PM: Early Dismissal/ Parent-Teacher Conferences (afternoon-until 6:00 PM)

Lunch will not be served. The After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM. Please send a lunch with all After School Program students.

Thursday, October 23, 7:00 PM, Parish Center: Parent/Teen Confirmation Meeting (Spanish)

Friday, October 24: No School for Students, UD Ministry Conference

Sunday, October 26, 2:00 PM, John Paul II High School: St. Mark HOMECOMING Game!

Sunday, October 26: Priesthood Sunday

Make a point of thanking our parish priests for all that they do for our community.

Monday, October 27: No School for Students, Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the afternoon of Thursday, October 23 and all day on Monday, October 27. Please sign-up online to schedule your conference by [clicking here](#). Instructions for online sign-up are attached.

Confirmation Parent/Teen Meeting

Reminder to parents of students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2015: One parent and your teen are required to attend one Confirmation Parent/Teen Meeting at the parish. Please choose from the following:

Monday, October 20, 7:00 PM, Great Hall, St. Mark Parish Center (English)

Thursday, October 23, 7:00 PM, Great Hall, St. Mark Parish Center (Spanish)

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Watts at lwatts@stmarkplano.org.

Thank You from the Carnival Committee!

Thank you to everyone in our community who took part in the St. Mark Community Carnival this past weekend as a volunteer, a donor, or an attendee! The proceeds are still being counted, but we went into the weekend at a profit, so we already know that we made money! Plus, we were able to donate leftover chips to the St. Mark Concession Stand (to be sold at home games), leftover bottled water to the upcoming "All Souls Remembrance 5K Run," and leftover sodas to the Teachers' Lounge. It was a successful weekend by all measures, and the Carnival Committee appreciates everyone's commitment to this wonderful community event of ours!

Scouts Host Halloween "Trunk or Treat"

The St. Mark Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts present "Trunk or Treat," which will take place at the St. Mark athletic field and parking lot from 5:00-7:30 PM on Halloween night! Bring your little ones (12 and under) to trick-or-treat in a safe environment. Crafts, face painting, sack racing, a tug-of-war and a cake walk will be part of the fun. Prizes for the best costumes and best decorated cars will be awarded. See the attached flyer for more information. To reserve your spot, complete the attached Permission Form. Questions? Contact Jackee Rotich at jackeerotich@yahoo.com.

Don't Wait: Participate!



All Souls Remembrance Run:

5K "EARLY BIRD" ENTRY FEE ENDS TODAY, OCTOBER 17 – TAKE ADVANTAGE AND SIGN-UP NOW -- \$25 TODAY, \$30 TOMORROW!

Only two weeks until the run -- join us on the St. Mark campus on Saturday, November 1 for our first ever "All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Run" benefiting our Athletic Department! There will be a 1K "fun run" starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome in both categories. Registration includes a commemorative t-shirt, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. Personalize your race t-shirt as you run in memory of a loved one for All Souls Day, a day designated for lifting up prayers for the departed in our Catholic tradition. [Click here](#) to be taken to the registration page. There are also many adult and student volunteer positions available. Contact Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net for more information. For student volunteers (eligible for service hours), please contact Eric Librea at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu.



28th Annual St. Mark Catholic School Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction: The Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2015 in the Great Hall of the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Center. Watch for more details and information about ticket sales in the coming weeks at www.stmcs.net/auction. One feature of this year's auction will be the ability to purchase an electronic device directly for the school. You won't want to miss out! Contact Auction Co-Chairs Steve Nasche at dallasprorealitor@gmail.com, or Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com for more information about how to get involved in the event planning.

News from the Athletics Department

Congratulations, Lions!

Last weekend, our Varsity Lions football team won their game against St. Pius! Our 5th Grade Gold, 6th Grade D2, and 8th Grade volleyball teams won both of their games, and our 6th Grade D1 team won one, lost one. In the Cross Country meet, Jordan Harris placed 4th and Keanne Alamo placed 5th in the Junior Varsity Girls division. Way to go, Lions!

Swim Team Registration Remains Open

Registration for the St. Mark Junior Varsity and Varsity Swim Teams is open until October 30, 2014. The teams will participate in one DPL Swim Meet, date to be announced (timeframe is likely October 24-November 4, 2014). [Click here](#) for more information.

Tennis Team Registration Now Open

Registration for the St. Mark Junior Varsity and Varsity Tennis Teams is open and available to students in 5th-8th grades. The 2014 Dallas Parochial League Tennis Tournament will be held at Collin County Community College on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Matches could be scheduled any time between 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, so athletes must be available all day.

Schedule conflicts cannot be accommodated. The registration deadline is Friday, October 31, 2014 by 12:00 PM. Entries cannot be accepted after this date. Tournament brackets will be posted on the DPL website and distributed to the Athletic Directors on November 10, 2014.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) to register online, or submit a check payable to "St. Mark Catholic School" with the name of the sports team and the athlete's name on the memo line. The fee for Swimming and for Tennis is \$60. There is no uniform deposit for Swimming or Tennis. All athletes must have a current DPL Sports Physical form on file. [Click here](#) for the form (scroll to "Documents" section). Questions? Please email Athletic Director Marlene Ehrling at marlene.ehrling@stmcs.net.

\$5.00 Sports Physicals at Plano Urgent Care

Plano Urgent Care, located across the street from St. Mark at the northeast corner of 15th and Alma, is offering \$5.00 sports physicals for all St. Mark students and staff through December 31, 2014. All student athletes must have a current DPL Sports Physical form on file. Visit the school website to print the Sports Physical Form and the Plano Urgent Care information flyer: [click here](#) and scroll down to the "Documents" section.

Come out and cheer on your St. Mark Lions! This week's games:

Volleyball

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 8th Grade vs. St. Bernard, 11:00 AM @ SPX

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 8th Grade vs. SPX, 12:00 PM @ SPX

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 7th Grade vs. St. Patrick, 5:00 PM @ POP

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 7th Grade vs. POP, 6:00 PM @ POP

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 6th Grade D1 vs. St. Thomas, 3:00 PM @ MIS

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 6th Grade D1 vs. MIS, 4:00 PM @ MIS

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 6th Grade D2 vs. Bishop Dunne, 1:00 PM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 6th Grade D2 vs. All Saints, 2:00 PM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 5th Grade Gold vs. POP, 9:00 AM @ POP

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 5th Grade Gold vs. Mt. St. Michael, 10:00 PM @ POP

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 5th Grade Green vs. St. Paul, 9:00 AM @ St. Mark

Saturday, October 18: St. Mark 5th Grade Green vs. MIS, 12:00 PM @ St. Mark

Be sure to visit our fully-stocked Concession Stand during our home games for refreshments and St. Mark Lions gear!

Help Wanted

The Athletics Department is planning a relaunch of our Friday morning "Lion's Den Spirit Store!" Athletic Director Marlene Ehring is looking for a few volunteers to assist with merchandise orders and with store sales on Friday mornings. Interested? Email Marlene at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net.

St. Mark Parish Priest Profile

As we lead up to Priesthood Sunday on October 26, we are learning more about our parish priests. This week, we profile Father Henry Erazo. Parents, you are invited to send in thank-you cards to our priests, which will be presented to them along with the cards and posters our students are creating. The deadline is October 21.

Name: Henry Erazo

Where were you born? Cumbal, Nariño, Colombia

How many brothers/sisters do you have? I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

What year were you ordained? 1998

What are your hobbies? My hobbies are soccer, watching television and reading books.

What do you enjoy most about your vocation? When I celebrate the sacraments.

School Financials

In accordance with the Diocese of Dallas Policy on Financial Management and Administration, the school's financial reports are included as an attachment to this bulletin.

Spotlight on Faculty

Our Faculty Stay Involved in the Education Community: St. Mark's Librarian/Technology Director, Anne Hollenbeck, and her husband, Kurt, made a trip to their alma mater, the University of Illinois, last week for a once-in-a-lifetime event. Kurt served on the alumni board of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department for 12 years. It had been one of the board's greatest goals to get a new building for the department, as the old one was about 80 years old. They were finally able to get the State of Illinois to donate half the cost and raised the rest of the needed funds from alumni and corporations. Because Anne and Kurt were donors to this project, and also had a connection to the board, they were invited to the building dedication last Friday. She said it was "a very fun event with lunch, tours, a dedication ceremony with the Governor of Illinois and many university dignitaries, plus a dinner in the evening." Congratulations to the Hollenbecks for helping the university realize their goal, and for impacting the educations of future engineers!



In Alumni News...

Congratulations to Patrick M. and Kaitlyn R. (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current John Paul II seniors) who have been named National Merit Commended Scholars! They placed among the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the PSAT test in 2013.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Father Cliff Discusses Baptism with 2nd Grade: Father Cliff recently paid a visit to our 2nd Grade Religion classes to discuss the Sacrament of Baptism. He talked about the meaning of the sacrament and how it prepared them for Reconciliation and First Communion (which they will receive later this year). One thing the students learned was that there are only two things that must be present during Baptism, water and words ("I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."). Other items such as candles and white cloths are sacramental, but not necessary.

Vocations Week: Our 5th-8th graders attended Vocations Week presentations in the church this week. Reverend John Szatkowski, Associate Director of Formation/Director of Spiritual Formation at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving (who came from St. Mark parish), spoke to the students on Monday about the priesthood – see the photo at the top of the bulletin. It was especially nice to hear from someone who has a close history with St. Mark! For anyone interested in attending Mass at Holy Trinity Seminary, the next public Mass will be held on Sunday, October 26 at 9:15 AM. All are welcome. Holy Trinity Seminary is located at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062. www.holytrinityseminary.org

Students Take A Break from Standardized Testing: Mrs. Pennartz's 5th grade class took a little break during standardized testing week by dancing to a Wii "Just Dance" video clip – a fun way to rest those brains, from the looks of it!