



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

November 13, 2015

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REMINDERS

Saturday, November 14:

-Christ Child Luncheon

Sunday, November 15:

-7:00 PM, All Saints Catholic Church: Children's
Choir Sings at Music Festival



**A NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**

St. Mark Catholic School is a two time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education "National Blue Ribbon Award." This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!

Monday, November 16:

-Last day of Fall Enrichment Clubs

Tuesday, November 17:

-5th Grade to The Pines Outdoor Education Program

Thursday, November 19:

-School Advisory Council Meeting

-6th Grade STEM Day (note date change; see details below)

Friday, November 20:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 1st grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. **They will also present their annual Giving Tree play.** All are welcome.

Monday, November 23-Friday, November 27: Thanksgiving Holidays; No School For Students

6TH GRADE STEM DAY

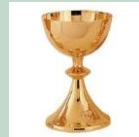
On Thursday, November 19, 6th grade students and teachers will participate in a special STEM Day where they will engage in hands-on, interactive science, technology, engineering and math activities. Representatives from Raytheon will be with us to facilitate these activities. 6th grade students may wear jeans, t-shirts and tennis shoes on this day (please refer to the "Free Dress Day" guidelines on page 25 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#)).

BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER

Is your child interested in becoming an altar server? Anyone in 4th grade or above who has received their First Communion can be trained as an Altar Server. The next training class will be held on Wednesday, November 25 from 10:00 AM - NOON in the church. Please arrive by 9:30



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 1st grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.



Stewardship:

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Stewardship" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2015-16.



All-School Service

Project: Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church. To help students understand that by serving others, they are serving God, they will participate in a required all-school service project each month. **Students will receive a homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.**

November Project: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Donations

AM to sign-in. For more information, please email Kathi@kathithompson.com, or call her at 972-965-0563.

"DEAR" BEFORE SCHOOL

Our students are already familiar with the term DEAR (drop everything and read). In an effort to take advantage of another opportunity to promote literacy and academics, as well as provide some additional homework time to our students, we will begin incorporating DEAR (plus homework time) on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the "Before School" time in the Cafetorium (between 7:15-7:40 AM). We encourage everyone to bring a book or something to study on those days. Our youngest students may bring a book from home, or choose from books and educational coloring sheets that we will make available. We hope our students will find this time both productive and beneficial!



You are cordially invited to attend the
St. Mark Catholic School
29th Annual Dinner & Auction!

When: February 6, 2016

Where: Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center in Plano

Tickets:

- * \$65 if purchased by 12/4/15
- * \$75 if purchased from 12/5/15 until sell out

Click here to buy tickets:
www.stmcs.net/auction

Each grade level will donate a specific item to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Students should turn in items to their Religion teacher.

Donation List By Grade Level:

- Preschool - Rotel
- Kindergarten & TK - Ramen noodles
- 1st - Chili
- 2nd - Spaghetios
- 3rd - Canned fruit
- 4th - Peanut butter
- 5th - Jelly
- 6th - Baked beans
- 7th - Pasta
- 8th - Spaghetti sauce

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the poor and vulnerable

Who Benefits? St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Due Date: November 16, 2015



Calling all alumni ... join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network! Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. Click [here](#) for more information.



Get your official LION gear here! Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium.

SAVE THE DATE for our Pre-Event Mixers!

These events will be hosted by our own St. Mark Catholic School families, and will be a great way to meet new friends and catch up with old friends. Watch for more information in the coming weeks via email and your child's school folder.

PK-TK: December 13

K-2: January 8

3-5: December 5

6-8: December 11



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN CUB SCOUTS

It's never too late to join Cub Scouts! Pack 285 will have a Pack Meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. Come learn about our upcoming trip to spend the night on a real battleship, and save the date for our annual Pinewood Derby on January 30! For more information on Cub Scouts, please [click here](#).

"OPEN YOUTH HOUSE" FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH NET TEAM

"Middle School Open Youth House" with the NET team takes place every Friday starting at 3:30 PM in the Youth House (located behind the church parking lot at 1410 Brentwood Drive). Middle schoolers (grades 6-8) can come any time from 3:30-6:00 PM. If your student would like to come directly from school, please email Principal Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net by the Thursday afternoon directly preceding the event on Friday. The NET Team looks forward to getting to know your kids over the course of the year!

Can't visit in person? [Place your order online anytime!](#)

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our Spirit Days, which are held on the first Monday of each month!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIONS DEN?



Cinch Bag (hot pink, gray or green) - \$10.00

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? The 2016-17 application for new students is now available online at www.stmcs.net.



DECEMBER WATCH D.O.G.S. DAYS NOW AVAILABLE

Dads: This is your chance to volunteer at the school and to spend some time in your child's classroom! [Click here](#) to reserve your spot during the month of December. The

"LEARN TO PRAY AS A FAMILY" ASSEMBLY

St. Mark is blessed to have two Dominican Sisters from Nashville present a prayer workshop for our families entitled, "Learn To Pray As A Family." Last year, the sisters published a book on praying as a family. They will be at St. Mark on Sunday, December 6 from 3:00-4:15 PM in McGivney Hall in the St. Mark Parish Center. This workshop is for adults only. Free babysitting will be provided so that parents can attend. Topics of discussion will include obstacles to family prayer, drawing your family together through prayer, praying with your spouse, and more. Space is limited, so please take advantage of this amazing opportunity by submitting your RSVP by November 20 to stacy.oliver@stmcs.net. You can also email her with any questions you might have. [Click here](#) for more information.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT UPCOMING HSA DATES

Monday, November 9- Friday, December 4:

Scrip Gift Card Sales (ordering instructions were sent home with students; [click here](#) for more information)

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Theresa Meyers, Ruby Librea and all of the volunteers for putting together and helping at the "Out Of This World" Book Fair this past week!

Thank you to all parents (and their children) for attending Pastries for Parents and having a yummy donut or two, and to the HSA Hospitality Committee for their help!

sign-up deadline is November 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer. For more information about the WATCH D.O.G.S. program, please [click here](#).

LOST AND FOUND

Please be sure you are putting your child's name in his/her sweater so that if it finds its way to Lost and Found, we will know who it belongs to. We are also seeing a lot of lost lunch boxes. Please send your child to Lost and Found in Mrs. O'Connor's office if he/she is missing a sweater or lunch box. Thank you for your cooperation.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***Tennis Tournament:** Come out and support the St. Mark Tennis Team on Saturday, November 14 at Collin College in Plano. Our players have matches scheduled throughout the day, beginning at 10:15 AM.

***DPL Swim Team Registration Now Open:** Important notice for all potential Swim Team members -- DPL has

On behalf of the faculty and staff, thank you to all of the 1st and 7th grade parents for hosting an "Italian Feast Luncheon" this past Wednesday. They absolutely loved it!

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES

Due to the low inventory of school directories remaining, HSA will no longer be able to sell copies to current school families. We need to maintain a supply for families who are new to the school and join HSA. Thank you for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Auction Volunteers Needed: Want to help plan this fun night? Contact Eric Librea

at eric.librea@sbcglobal.net, or Paola Colon at paolabcolon@icloud.com for more information and volunteer opportunities.

REMINDERS

Attention Volunteers: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#). Also, volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.

Box Tops: Please continue to collect Box Tops and don't forget to put the grade level on the package before turning it in to Mrs. O'Connor.

not yet announced a date for the 2015 Swim Meet. [Online registration](#) is now open for anyone interested, with the caveat that the event date is TBD. **Please do not make any registration payments until a swim meet date and venue have been confirmed.** Please visit the [Swimming](#) page on the school website and review the prerequisites for team registration. [DPL Sports Physical Forms](#) must be submitted to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

***Basketball Registration Now Open:** Basketball registration is now open for all 5th-8th grade students. The registration deadline is December 2, 2015. Please [click here](#) for more information about the teams, fees, uniforms, the upcoming season, and the registration instructions. A [DPL Sports Physical Form](#) must be submitted to the school office, attn: Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director, before team evaluations take place.

***Congratulations to our Football and Volleyball teams on a great fall season. While we had some disappointment on the last**

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



Knights of Columbus

"Bingo Knight": Join the Knights of Columbus Council 6065 on Saturday, November 14 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium for their Vocations Bingo Knight benefiting Holy Trinity Seminary, the Retired Priest Fund, and numerous other K of C charities and activities. Pre-register online for \$25 by November 12 at www.KOFC-6065.org. \$30 at the door. Must be 21 years old to participate. To become a table sponsor, email mabernatis@msn.com.

Plano Metropolitan Ballet: Tickets are now on sale for the Plano Metropolitan Ballet's January performances of "The Frozen Kingdom," a ballet performed in the spirit of Disney's "Frozen." Our own Manuela B. (6th grade) will be performing, along with alumni Isabella C. '12, Sabrina K. '14 and Amanda L. '14. Stephanie Y., a St. Mark parishioner, will also be performing. Special performances are offered for scouting organizations, with a Q&A session with the dancers afterwards. [Click here](#) for more information.



Plan To Kick-off Your Holiday Shopping at the Catholic High School Christmas Bazaars. Click below for more information:

November 14 - [Ursuline Academy Holiday Gift Bazaar](#)

November 21 - [John Paul II High School Christmas Bazaar](#)

December 5 - [Bishop Lynch High School Christmas Bazaar](#)

weekend of competition, we can all agree that it was a fun, rewarding season for everyone ...

Football: Our Varsity and Junior Varsity Lions gave it their all this season, but alas, lost their first play-off games last weekend. We thank them for their dedication and sportsmanship, and for representing St. Mark so well this season!

Volleyball: Our Lions Volleyball teams also fought hard this season, with our 7D1 and 6D2 teams making it all the way to the DPL finals! Though both teams lost their games, they are to be commended for taking it as far as they did, and placing 2nd in the finals. All of our Lions Volleyball teams are winners in our book!

Our Volleyball All-Stars' team also lost their game, but they gave it their all, taking it to three games! They were honored to be chosen as participants and we congratulate them again.

(photo removed)



December 5 - [Jesuit Women's Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar](#)

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

2nd Grade Receives Sacrament of Reconciliation: Congratulations to our 2nd grade students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday. As always, it was a special occasion marked by reflection and joy.

(photo removed)

St. Mark Spelling Bee: The competition was fierce at this year's school Spelling Bee. Students spelled so many words correctly, that we had to give them a break, allow our audience to return to class, and reconvene with our finalists! Congratulations to Sarah H. who is the winner of this year's St. Mark Spelling Bee, and our returning champion. Sarah will move on to the county spelling bee, which St. Mark will host in January (since last year's winner came from our school). JoAnn N. was our runner-up. Congratulations to all of our contestants who qualified in their respective grade levels: 4th grade: Samuel C., Nataly M., Anthony N.; 5th grade: Renil G., Camille S., Theresa T.; 6th grade: Anthony E., Ann T., Fitch T.; 7th grade: Courtney B., Zosia S., Bobby V.; 8th grade: Sarah H., JoAnn N., Megan W.

(photo removed)

8th Grade Begins Baby Egg Project: 8th grade kicked-off a longstanding St. Mark tradition this week: the Baby Egg Project. This is a cross-curricular unit that will span two weeks, with lessons in each of their core classes. This week began with students learning about dating and the Sacrament of Marriage with Deacon Sid, as well as the responsibilities that come along with them. They enjoyed participating in a mock

DPL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Attention Student-Athletes:

The Dallas Parochial League offers an annual scholarship opportunity for 6th-8th grade student-athletes. Scholarship recipients receive \$500 towards the cost of Catholic school tuition for the following year. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2015. [Click here](#) for more information and the application.

PARISHIONER TUITION STATUS/PARISH DONATIONS

Reminder: In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2015. You can pay by check (made out to "St. Mark Catholic Church") and submit it to the parish office, or to the school office in an envelope marked "parish donation." Or, you can use the church's electronic payment site by [clicking here](#). Recurring payments can also be set-up using this link. Please refer to page 11 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for more information about the parish donation.

If you are unsure about your donation status, please

marriage ceremony, including ring pops and a wedding reception! Baby Eggs were "born" and students are learning about the responsibilities of caring for children. Baby announcements will be written in English class, apartments will be rented, cars will be purchased, and household budgets will be made in Math class. Honeymoon trips will be researched in Social Studies. Science lessons will include a STEM project involving the construction of a baby egg safety seat system, infant care, and a review of human body systems. Our 8th graders always enjoy participating in Baby Egg!

(photo removed)

Book Fair/Pastries For Parents: The annual St. Mark Book Fair was a big success, with proceeds benefiting the St. Mark library. The annual Pastries For Parents event on Wednesday was enjoyed by all, and brought many parents and students together for some tasty morning treats!

(photo removed)

5th Grade Visits with JP II PALs: 5th grade enjoyed a visit from the John Paul II High School PALs on Wednesday. PAL stands for "peer assisted leadership." These high school students visit St. Mark from time to time to mentor our students on topics such as self-esteem, communication skills, and saying no to drugs and alcohol. That's our own **Abbie V. '12** in the blue shirt!

(photo removed)

Cub Scout Activities: Cub Scout Pack 285 recently held their annual Pack Picnic and Raingutter Regatta at Shawnee Park where scout families came together for some great food, fun, and boat races! Scouts were

contact Nadya Collard in the parish office no later than **December 23**, as she will be out of the office from December 24-January 4. You can reach her at ncollard@stmarkplano.org, or at 972-423-5600, x 258. Contributions made during Christmas week should be posted to 2015 contribution statements, as long as they are received by December 31.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is in need of YELLOW bottle caps only. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bishop Lynch: You are invited to attend the ["BL Sunday" Open House](#) on Sunday, November 15 at 1:00 PM. Click the link above for more details.

Jesuit College Preparatory School: Visit Jesuit's Open House on Sunday, November 22 from 1:00-4:00 PM. The opening session takes place in the Terry Center. [Click here](#) for additional details.

challenged to design and build their own boats with maximum performance in mind, and then test their speed. Check out some of the great entries in the photo below. Den winners for the Regatta were: Tigers: Cooper D.; Bears: Jackson D.; Webelos: John B. John B. was also the pack's overall Regatta winner. The pack will be camping this weekend at the Texas Motor Speedway Circle Ten Xperience.

(photos removed)

Children's Book Week: This week, students participated in Children's Book Week. Each morning during announcements, they were asked a question about a particular book, and submitted their answers in the Library. We had lots of daily winners who were presented with books!

(photo removed)

St. Mark Receives Mentions on "The Catholic Guy" Show: Two St. Mark families attended a live broadcast of "The Catholic Guy" radio show at Bishop Lynch this week. During the course of the broadcast, a few of them were interviewed on air, and mentioned St. Mark several times! See the photos below of Justus B., as well as Samuel, Clare, and Rosie O. with Lino Ruli, host of "The Catholic Guy" radio show on Sirius XM Radio, Channel 129. What fun, and what a nice "national" plug for St. Mark!

(photos removed)

3rd Grade Passes the Time: On Wednesday, a sudden rain shower prematurely forced our students indoors during recess. 3rd grade decided to pass the time they had left by creating their own "massage train!"

(photo removed)

Ursuline Academy: Visit Ursuline on Sunday, November 22 from 3:00-5:00 PM for Open House. Please pre-register online by clicking [here](#).



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with [Holy Trinity Seminary](#) and takes great pride in supporting our future priests. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:

***Join Us for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM:**

November - 15th
January - 24th, 31st
February - 7th, 14th, 28th
April - 3rd, 17th, 24th

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions about the Public Masses? Call or text Agnes Denvir, VP of Vocations, President-Elect Serra Club of North Central Dallas. Cell: 214-607-2391, agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

FRENCH MASSES AT CISTERCIAN

Mrs. Denvir extends an invitation to St. Mark French

students, and any students/families who are interested, to attend the French Masses at Cistercian. There is an opportunity to do the readings, and to sample some French snacks at the end of every Mass. Masses take place at Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey in Irving every 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM. Upcoming dates: November 22, December 20, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, and May 15.



LION PRIDE!

Quiz Bowl: Our Quiz Bowl team is at it again! This past weekend, they won the Hawk's Nest Quiz Bowl competition held at Cistercian Preparatory School, beating out 17 other competitors including Cistercian, Greenhill and St. Mark's School of Texas! They have now qualified for the regional competition and the national competition to be held in Atlanta! Congratulations to Breigh P., Minh-Khanh P., Antonio M., Harrison K., and Aenghus D.!

(photo removed)

Book Fair Poster Contest

Winners: Thank you to all of our students who entered our Poster Contest. The judges can attest to the fact that EVERY single poster was great, and that the competition was stiff! Congratulations to our winners:

Grades PreK-1:

1st Place: Chase T.

1st Place: Julia Z.

2nd Place: Charlie D.

Honorable Mentions:

Cooper D., Ali N.

Grades 2-3:

1st Place: Diya C.

2nd Place: Sofia Z.

3rd Place: Pedro R.

3rd Place: Chloe S.

Honorable Mentions:

Jackson D., Adrienne F.,

Celeste T.

Grades 4-5:

1st Place: Biya C.

2nd Place: Isabella Z.

3rd Place: Sofia M.

Middle School:

1st Place: Jake R.

Golf Success! Logan W. and Lizzie O. partnered at the recent Premier Junior Golf Tour, a tournament for girls and boys ages 7-14, and won first place! Congratulations to them!

(photo removed)

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