



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 28, 2015

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REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Wednesday, September 2, 3:40 PM,
Cafetorium: Introduction to Orchestra Meeting
& Instrument Fitting

Friday, September 4, 8:30 AM, Church: All
School Mass. The Mass will be presented by
the 7th grade. They will perform the Call to



**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,
and has been nominated to
apply for a rare third award
in 2015. This means that our
students consistently score
in the top 15% in the nation
on standardized tests.

Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

Monday, September 7: Labor Day holiday - No School

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Let's give a warm St. Mark welcome to another new student who joined us this week ...

-Maria I. 6th grade Mrs. Gerwer

SUMMER THANK-YOUS - PART 2

A few more heartfelt thank-yous to those who made donations to our teacher lounge redecorating project over the summer:

-The **Anderson family** for donating a rug.

-The **Clavenna family** for donating a chair and artwork.

-**Cathy Goode** for donating a side table.

Your donations are so appreciated. The lounge has undergone quite a transformation, and the staff couldn't be more thrilled with it!

We'd also like to thank the **Salava family** for donating the framed photo collage that now hangs in the Cafetorium. It is such a wonderful representation of life at St. Mark Catholic School that we can now share with everyone!

SAVE THE DATE FOR NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY - 9/17/15!

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations Chalice

7th 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.



Faith: 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 "Faith" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues.



All-School Service

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**



Save the Date!

St. Mark Catholic School is once again participating in North Texas Giving Day, a one day, online fundraising event benefiting non-profits in North Texas. **This year's event takes place on Thursday, September 17 from 6:00 AM to 12:00 MIDNIGHT.** Give \$25 or more on this day, and a percentage of your donation will be matched by Communities Foundation of Texas. Proceeds benefit ALL St. Mark students through our Gap Fund, which helps bridge the gap between the amount of tuition each family pays, and the actual cost to educate each student. For the 2015-16 school year, this amount is \$1,280 per student. Put the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more information about how you can contribute. In the meantime, [click here](#) for additional details about NTGD.

ORCHESTRA INFO. MEETING & INSTRUMENT FITTING



St. Mark Orchestra Program: There will be an introductory meeting about our Orchestra program on Wednesday, September 2 at 3:40 PM in the Cafetorium. Representatives from Burak Strings in Plano will be on hand to size your child for an instrument. Orchestra classes will begin September 9, and will be held every Monday and Wednesday after school through the remainder of the year.

grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.

August Project: 5 Random Acts of Kindness in 10 Days

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

Who Benefits? Various individuals and organizations

Due Date: August 31, 2015

Link: [Random Acts of Kindness Form](#)



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.

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

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



St. Mark is pleased to announce a new program for our young performers: "Drama Kids." Drama Kids is an after-school developmental drama opportunity for students in grades 1-5. Kids build drama skills through fun dress-up days, and a variety of activities and plays, including a spring performance. Classes start September 8 and will meet after school once per week for one hour (3:40-4:40 PM). The cost is \$58 per month, plus a \$30 annual registration fee. The class is limited to 20 students, so if your child is interested, please register now. For more information and registration details, [click here](#).

CHOIR REGISTRATION IS OPEN



The St. Mark Children's Choir is now accepting registrations for students in 2nd-8th grades for the 2015-16 school year (high school students are also eligible). Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM in the Smyth Pastoral Center. Students are supervised and escorted to rehearsal after dismissal from school. The registration form must be submitted by Friday, September 4. The first day of choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 9. Click on the following links for more details:

[St. Mark Children's Choir Registration Form](#)
[St. Mark Children's Choir 2015-16 Calendar](#)

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

***Cross Country** registration is open until August 31 for students in grades 5-8. [Click here](#) for details.

***DPL Tennis Tournament** registration for students in grades 5-8 is now open. The deadline to register is October 26 at 12:00 PM. More details and registration information can be found [here](#).

Important Reminders

*Information on individual DPL team sports for 5th-8th grade students is available on our [website](#) under the "Campus Life" tab. Simply click on "[Athletics](#)" and find the sport you are interested in. Here, you will find registration dates and instructions, fees, details on the current season, etc.

*Parents will be alerted to sports team registration dates in the "Weekly School Bulletin." Please register your athlete during the open registration dates only for each sport. Registrations



WATCH D.O.G.S. NOW ENROLLING DADS FOR OCTOBER-MAY

We are now enrolling Dads for WATCH D.O.G.S. days at school, and are offering half days for dads who cannot commit to full days. The deadline to register for October is September 20. Our website has been updated for the 2015-16 school year, so visit today to learn more at www.stmarkwatchdogs.com.

DADS DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!
WATCH D.O.G.S.
PIZZA NIGHT
THURSDAY, SEPT. 10TH
7:00 PM - SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Mix it up with the best Dads Group at St. Mark!
RSVP: watchdogs@stmcs.net

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

With "back to school" season comes the spread of germs. Check out Nurse Townsend's tips entitled, "[Should I Come To School or Not?](#)" for guidelines on when to send children to school, and when to keep them home.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Volunteer Opportunities: Thanks to all who were able to attend the "Back To School Nights," and to all who signed up to volunteer for HSA committees and/or activities. We look forward to working with you this school year! If you weren't able to attend BTSN, or still need to

submitted outside the official registration dates for each sport are considered invalid.



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:

Welcome Dinner: Each fall, Holy Trinity hosts a "[Seminarian Welcome Dinner](#)" to introduce the new seminarians to the Catholic community. This year's dinner takes place September 19 at 5:00 PM at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. St. Mark will have a large presence at this year's dinner (including student and alumni volunteers), and will be honored for our ongoing support of the seminary. Tickets are available for purchase, and we encourage anyone and everyone to attend. For reservations and sponsorship information, [click here](#), contact agnes.denvir@stmcs.net, or call (972) 438-2212.

sign up for a committee and/or volunteer opportunity, [click here](#) to learn more.

Please Pay Your HSA Dues: Please pay your HSA dues (\$25) by September 11 to receive a copy of the school directory, and the option to volunteer at Field Day. You can pay [online](#) directly, or you can print a copy of the [HSA dues form](#) and return it to the school office with your payment. Please remember that it's your dues that help to pay for all of the great events and activities that HSA sponsors for our students each year.

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September to make sure all new families are included.

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: Keep saving those BoxTops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in to the school office.

Important Upcoming HSA Dates:
*Room Parent Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 8
*Committee Chair Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 10

29th Annual Dinner and Auction: We want to hear from you! Be on the lookout for a survey to help us understand what you would like to see at this year's event.

We also have many volunteer needs. Please contact Paola Colon (paolabcolon@gmail.com)

Join Us for Public Masses: Holy Trinity Seminary opens its doors on many Sundays throughout the school year so the community can join the seminarians/faculty in the Celebration of the Mass and social gathering. Visitors often include Serra Club members, scout groups, Religious Education classes and others who are interested in the formation process of priests. Mass is followed by a social (donuts) sponsored by the Serra Club. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the Seminary and meet the seminarians.

**2015-16 Public Masses,
9:15 AM:**

August - 30th
September - 13th
October - 4th, 11th, & 25th
November - 1st, & 15th
January - 24th, 31st
February - 7th, 14th, 28th
April - 3rd, 17th, 24th

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions about the Welcome Dinner or Public Masses? Call or text Agnes Denvir, VP of Vocations, President-Elect Serra Club of North Central Dallas. Cell:

or Eric Librea (ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu) if you are interested in helping out at this year's event.

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is collecting bottle caps. She needs blue, green, yellow, orange, red, black and clear. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK ELECTIVE POPCORN SALE

Support the Yearbook and Enjoy a Tasty Treat! The Middle School yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK-3 - 8th grade) next week to raise money to cover the cost of printing the yearbook. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time beginning Monday, August 31 through September 4. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar or Salsa. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school as a morning/afternoon snack on September 9. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between August 31-September 4. Feel free to order extra bags to take home!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

214-607-2391,
agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or
agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

First Grade iPads: Our first grade students enjoyed practicing their spelling words on the iPads this week.



STEM Activities Take Center Stage:

4th grade completed a STEM project this week by working together in groups to build bridges using specific materials and criteria. Check out a "swinging bridge" below.

(photo removed)

5th grade tests the effects of design and air pressure on distance in the "Marshmallow Puff Tube" STEM lesson.

(photo removed)

Another STEM project for middle school - Pasta Cars. Students were challenged to work in groups to build cars



Looking for Former Scouts of Troop 285 !

Help us celebrate the
50th Anniversary
of the Troop's inception this coming
October 10, 2015

The troop is seeking the names, emails and
locations of former Scout masters, assistant
Scout masters, and scouts from Troop 285

Please contact Sylvia Garcia-Meier at:
50th@t285.org

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



Monsignor Smyth Golf

Tournament - Friday, September 18, The Courses at Watters Creek, Allen: Get your foursomes together and join us for the annual golf tournament, hosted by our very own St. Mark alumni! Anyone can participate: family, friends, co-workers. You'll be treated to a round of golf, dinner and some great prizes. The registration deadline is September 10. [Click here](#) for more information and the online registration form.

Saturday, October 31:
Two great events, same great day ...

made out of various types of pasta, and actually make them go. Designs were revised for effectiveness and performance statistics were tracked during this interdisciplinary lesson.

(photo removed)

Art History Elective: Middle school students taking the Art History elective learned about Jackson Pollock this week and then created their own renditions of his artistic style.

(photo removed)

Soccer Success: Over the summer, the second grade "Thundercats" finished in second place in the PSA summer indoor soccer league. Members of the team include Sophia G., Leah D., Diya C., Audrey M., Sneha M., and Addison V.

Students Compete in Kids Triathlon: Brothers Chris and Nick B. recently participated in a Kids Triathlon. They had a great time competing in the different events. Way to go, boys!

(photo removed)



Parish Fall Festival, Saturday, October 31: Planning is in full swing and volunteers are needed! All are welcome to participate and service hours are available. Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#) for more information. [Click here](#) for more details, and follow the Parish Fall Festival on [Facebook!](#)



All Souls 1K/5K Run, Saturday, October 31: Registration is now open for our second annual 1K/5K run. Anyone can register, so help spread the word! [Click here](#) to sign-up for the run or to become an event sponsor. Volunteers are needed, and no job is too small. Contact [Tiffany Duncan](#) if you can help. Service hours are available.

JESUIT CHEER CLINIC OPPORTUNITY

Friday Night Under the Lights! Calling all Preschool-5th grade students! Join the Jesuit Cheerleaders on Friday, October 2 at 4:45 PM for an opportunity to learn a pregame cheer routine and perform it in Jesuit's Postell Stadium before the Rangers take on Skyline. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610