



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

December 2, 2016

Prayer for the 2016-17 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would Jesus Christ with all our hearts, mind and soul.

REMINDERS

TODAY, Friday, December 2:

-6th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-SCRIP Gift Card Orders Due (details below)

Saturday, December 3:

-7:00 PM, Herrera Home: Pre-Auction Mixer - Grades K-2 (details below)

Monday, December 5:

-St. Mark Spirit Day or Holiday Shirt Day! (refer to page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for dress code details)

-8:00 AM, Rm. 142: Community Prayer Team meeting

-December 5-8: Popcorn Sale, benefitting Middle School Yearbook (details below)

Tuesday, December 6:



A National School of
Excellence

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Follow us and stay
connected!



QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)
[Limited Openings for
2016-17](#)
[Lifetime Lions Alumni
Network](#)

-3:00-8:00 PM: St. Mark/Chipotle Fundraiser benefitting the Auction & Gala (details below)

Wednesday, December 7:

-6:45 AM: Catholic Math League Test (participants were notified in advance)

-Reconciliation, Grades 2-8

Thursday, December 8:

-8:30 AM, Church: Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Friday, December 9:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 6th grade. All are welcome.

-9:15 AM, Church: Orchestra Performance

-7:00 PM, Rossigno Home: Pre-Auction Mixer, grades 6-8 (details below)

Saturday, December 10:

-PSAT, administered by Duke T.I.P.

-4:00 PM, Cowen Home: Pre-Auction Mixer, grades PK-TK

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents: In this month's column, I'd like to concentrate on the many volunteer opportunities at St. Mark, and how you can get involved.

Our school literally runs on volunteer power.

As a Catholic school, we pride ourselves on responsible use of your tuition dollars. With that comes a great need for volunteers to fill in where administrators, faculty and staff leave off.

We all want to offer as much to our students as we possibly can, and without our many parent volunteers, things such as Junior Achievement, our annual Auction & Gala, Book Fair, All Souls Run, chaperones at The Pines Catholic Camp, athletic and academic team coaches, and so much more, would not be available to our students. It is only with your help that St. Mark can continue to offer such a wide variety of activities and programs to our children.

In addition to the benefits our students receive, parents benefit from volunteering as well. We want our parents on our campus and are so pleased to be able to offer so many opportunities for

[Lunch Menus](#)
[Safe Environment Training](#)

FAITH IN ACTION



Purity: 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 Purity this month.



All School Service Project

December Project: Angel Tree Collection

Details: Each homeroom/home base will collect monetary donations and purchase gifts for selected Angel Tree recipients. More details will come from your child's teacher.

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the poor and vulnerable

Who Benefits: St. Mark Angel Tree recipients

Deadline: December 9



you to be involved. Your presence allows you to truly see what your children are experiencing each day, it allows you to get to know the faculty, staff and students on a deeper level, and ultimately enhances your child's education. And besides, your kids LOVE seeing you at school!

Just over the past three months, our volunteers have successfully:

Organized the "Back to School Sunday" event; chaperoned at The Pines Catholic Camp; advised the school administration on many topics via the School Advisory Council; served many hours as Watch D.O.G.S.; coached numerous academic and sports teams; presented to our students at Vocations Week and Career Week; taught Middle School electives; volunteered at the Parish Fall Festival, All Souls Run, and Scholastic Book Fair events; organized classroom Halloween parties; hosted Teacher Luncheons; published the School Directory, hosted a Used Uniform Sale; increased our merchant fundraising opportunities; served as Host Families to new school families; assisted classroom teachers with materials and reading to the class; created the new Community Prayer Team; started work on the 2017 Auction & Gala; worked in the school Library; volunteered for lunch/recess duty; organized meals for families in need; and so much more.

We are continually grateful for all of the time and talent that our St. Mark community gives to our school, and we encourage every parent to get involved at whatever level fits his/her schedule. Whether it's teaching a Middle School elective class, or volunteering for a few hours from home, we can use (and welcome!) everyone's involvement.

Please be thinking of ways you might want to volunteer. Here are a few ideas to get you started, as well as links for more information:

- *[Home & School Association](#) - help with everything from classroom activities to Field Day to Graduation to Junior Achievement
- *[School Advisory Council](#) - learn more here and let me know if you are interested in serving in an advisory role at the school
- *[Watch D.O.G.S.](#) - volunteer time for dads only
- *[Community Prayer Team](#) - pray for our school with others, or from wherever you are
- *[Annual Gala & Auction](#) - contact [Eric Librea](#)
- *Talk with prospective families at an area parish during Catholic Schools Week in January - contact [Debbie Reed](#)
- *Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic - contact [Marlene Ehring](#)

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I thank you for all that you do for our school, and I encourage anyone who isn't involved

Minutes from the October 20, 2016 SAC meeting are now available [here](#).

WATCH D.O.G.S.



Calling All

"Dads of Great Students":

[Click here](#) to learn more about our Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer program for Dads only, and to reserve your spot during the month of [January](#). Sign-ups are due December 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM



December's prayer intention for our school:

For our volunteers to be abundant and our committees to be wise.

Prayer Requests: It is a blessing to be able to pray for each other. When you ask someone to pray for an intention, you bless them as much as they are blessing you with their prayers. Please do not be shy in asking this Prayer Team to pray for you. Prayer requests can be sent to [Kathleen Frye](#).

yet, to either give us a call or come on up to campus and volunteer in any way you can. We are all about community, and this is a great way for you to become a bigger part of our amazing *St. Mark* community.

Please take a moment to stop by the "Spotlight Display" case in the front lobby the next time you're at school. This month's display features a few of our many volunteer opportunities.

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

WELCOME NEW STUDENT

A warm St. Mark welcome to our newest student, Ben W., who is in Mrs. Young's TK class.

ORNAMENTS FOR OUR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE

We love to decorate our school Christmas tree with ornaments made by our students. If your child would like to contribute an ornament, please have him/her bring it to school anytime next week and place it directly on the tree located in the Cafeteria. Construction paper chains, or ornaments made at home or at school are all welcome. Let's fill the branches with our students' beautiful creations!



PARISH DONATION REMINDER

In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2016. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that did not meet the \$800 minimum will be sent out in late January 2017. To submit payment electronically, please [click here](#). If you have any questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard at (972) 423-5600 ext 258 or ncollard@stmarkplano.org.



**HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

SCRIP Gift Cards:

Please indicate if your prayer can be shared through the email chain and/or at our monthly meetings. If you have a prayer intention you would like to be kept confidential, you can place this request in the Prayer Box on our school Prayer Table (located in the hallway between the Administration offices and the Cafetorium). If you are unable to make it into the school building, Kathleen Frye or another member of the Prayer Team would be happy to make sure your prayer intention is placed into the Prayer Box. This Prayer Box is taken to Mass on Fridays and included in the Mass intentions when the reader says, "And for all the prayers in our hearts and those included in our Prayer Box."

Upcoming Events:

*Join us every Monday at 2:30 PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our school and country. We will meet in the Church Cry Room.

*Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 5 at 8:00 AM, Room 142 near the Music Room. It will last approximately 30 minutes. Please come join us in praying for our school. All are welcome. Praying out loud is not required.

Gift Card Orders are due today, December 2. Thank you to all of our families who have participated. The HSA appreciates your support.

General Meeting:

Thank you to all of our parents who attended our November General Meeting, our second of the school year. A lot of great information was shared and discussed, and we will let you know when the meeting minutes are available for you to review.

The minutes from our first General Meeting on 10/5/16 are now available by [clicking here](#).

Staff Christmas Celebration:

The Home and School Association will host the Faculty and Staff Christmas Celebration in the Great Hall at the Parish Center on December 13. Please [click here](#) to make a contribution (be it money, time, goods, or poinsettias). Contributors will be publicly acknowledged at the event. Thank you for all that you do to make this Christmas Season special for our Faculty & Staff.



Don't forget -- as you begin your holiday shopping (as well as your everyday shopping), click the Amazon link on the [St. Mark homepage](#). This easy step earns money for our school.

We've made it even easier for you by adding the Amazon "a" logo at the very top of the homepage, next to the social media links:



We have received questions about topics such as order privacy, how you know your order is linked to St. Mark, and what the difference is between the Amazon School Rewards Program and Amazon Smile. Please [click here](#) for "Frequently Asked Questions."

The percentage of sales that St. Mark earns varies by how much traffic we generate. Currently, we're making about 6.5% of purchases, which is fantastic! Let's keep up the momentum and make easy money for St. Mark!

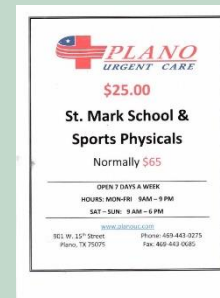
Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery Shopping: Christmas, the Season of Giving, is just around the corner, just like your neighborhood Tom Thumb and Kroger. And guess what? Tom Thumb and Kroger celebrate the Season of Giving year round.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM
ATHLETICS

Sports Physicals: All DPL athletes must have a current [Sports Physical](#) on file. To assist you, Plano Urgent Care, adjacent to St. Mark, is offering \$25.00 school and sports physicals. See below for information.



Download Game Photos:

Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#). View and purchase photos from recent events.

Dallas Parochial League

Scholarships: The DPL will offer 4-6 separate \$500 scholarships to worthy 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the 2016-17 school year. Additional details, eligibility, and the application can be found on the [DPL website](#). The deadline to apply is December 9, 2016.

Coach Safe Environment

Training: All volunteer coaches for Basketball,

Link your shopper cards today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries.

Safe Environment: A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobs](#) with questions.

30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

Get your 30th Annual Gala and Auction tickets now!

Thank you to all those who bought their Gala & Auction tickets early and availed of the discounted price. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, here's an incentive for you. Those who get their tickets from November 19 to December 16 (by 12:00 NOON) will be entered into a raffle drawing where the prize will be an **overnight stay at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center!** You can use that free stay the night of the event or by the expiration date on the certificate. We will also have consolation prizes - more details to follow. Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#). We nearly reached capacity prior to Christmas last year, so buy your tickets early to ensure you get to enjoy the festivities. If you have questions, please reach out to [Eric Librea](#).



Support the Chipotle fundraiser!

On Tuesday, December 6, Chipotle will donate **50%** (not 15%, not 20% but **50%!!!**) of all proceeds between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM to St. Mark Catholic School! To get credit, you must visit the Chipotle near the school located along Highway 75/Central Expwy. between 15th Street and Plano Parkway (1009 N. Central Expressway). Be sure to either bring along a printed copy of the fundraiser flyer, or show an electronic copy (see below) on your mobile device. Get your burrito, salad, quesadilla, or taco fix all worked out that day! Valid for dine-in or takeout.



Attend the Pre-Auction Mixers!

Baseball, Softball, and Track must submit their Safe Environment certification to [Marlene Ehrling](#) as soon as possible.



Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic: This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehrling](#) if you are interested.

POPCORN SALE BENEFITTING MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Monday, December 5 and Thursday, December 8. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, Salsa or Vanilla (Christmas colors). Order extra bags for gifts or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school on December 12. If your child would like to enjoy a



Please see the dates and times below and mark your calendars. If you have questions, please contact [Rebecca Battles](#).

PK3 - TK - December 10, 4-7 PM at the Cowen Home
K-2 Grade - December 3, 7-10 PM at the Herrera Home
6-8 Grade - December 9, 7-11 PM at the Rossigno Home

Help us have a memorable event and awesome auction packages!

Do you own a business that would benefit from promotion within the St. Mark community? If so, become a **St. Mark Catholic School 2017 Gala & Auction Sponsor**. Sponsorship packages range from \$500 - \$2,500 and can include ads on the auction website, in the auction program and in the St. Mark school directory. In addition to cash donations, the auction committee would also like your in-kind donations...gift certificates, experiences, etc. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Ann Rossigno](#) and for in-kind donations, please contact [Chandi Owen](#).

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

A few scenes from this week. To learn the stories behind these pictures, visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

St. Mark's Own Osong Family and Ms. Eisele Create Biblezon Advent App:



3rd Grade "Pushing Up the Sky" Video:



Preschool Learns about Advent from Fr. Cliff:

bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 12/5-8. Please help support the middle school yearbook elective and enjoy a tasty treat!

SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES WITH ST. MARK GIRL SCOUTS

The St. Mark 4th and 5th grade Girl Scout Troops (3360 and 3380) are collecting items for children who visit the Catholic Charities' Immigration Legal Services office in Dallas. They are requesting the following brand new items: small blankets, stuffed animals, toy cars, crayons, coloring books, small games, toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss. Small cash donations are also being accepted. This service project is part of the girls' Girl Scout Bronze Award, which is the highest recognition a Junior Girl Scout can earn. The girls will be collecting items before and after most Mass times, and there will also be a collection box available in the school office through December 16.

JESUIT RANGERETTE WINTER DANCE CLINIC



Youth & Government:



5th Grade @ The Pines:



6th Grade Persuasive Essays:



PK/TK Soccer Team Champs:



TK/K Santa Cams:

The Jesuit Rangerette drill team is hosting a Winter Dance Clinic on December 10 from 8:30 AM-1:00 PM at Jesuit for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Santa will make an appearance. [Register here](#), or [click here](#) for information.

PASSION AND PURPOSE LIVE

Tickets for the March 25, 2017 "Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose" event with Matthew Kelly are now available [here](#). Tickets tend to sell out, so book now. He invites us all to identify God's voice in our lives and the specific purpose for which we've been created.

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