



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

February 26, 2016

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REMINDERS

Saturday, February 27:

-St. Pius X Catholic School: Private Schools
Interscholastic Association (PSIA)
Competition

Tuesday, March 1:



**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!

-Acts of Mercy Presentation (grades 6-8)

-Respect Life Club Meeting: Respect for Differently Abled Children

Wednesday, March 2:

- 6:45 AM: Math Fax Test (participants have been notified)

-Reconciliation (grades 2-8)

Thursday, March 3:

-Crazy Hat Day; Read Across America (details below)

Friday, March 4:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 4th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

Monday, March 7-Friday, March 11:

-Spring Break - No School for Students

Sunday, March 13:

-Daylight Savings Time Begins

Monday, March 14:

-St. Mark Spirit Day

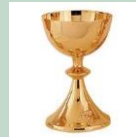
-Spring Enrichment Clubs Begin

-Popcorn Sale Benefitting Middle School Yearbook (March 14-17)

ST. MARK IS A DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP CERTIFIED SCHOOL



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations

Chalice: 4th 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.



Honesty:

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 "Honesty" 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.**

February Project: Book Drive

We did it! St. Mark has earned recognition as a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School by Common Sense Media. Last October, we announced that we would be pursuing this certification. The purpose is to equip our students with the skills they need to be responsible online citizens. We have committed to teach our students to navigate the behavioral and social issues that stem from students' online lives. To earn this distinction, St. Mark implemented a detailed program provided by Common Sense Media and achieved various benchmarks to meet the certification criteria.

St. Mark is one of the few schools in the State of Texas to earn this distinction.

CRAZY HAT DAY; READ ACROSS AMERICA

Each year, St. Mark participates in The National Education Association's "Read Across America" event, a reading motivational and awareness program that is held on Dr. Seuss' birthday. This year's event will be held on Thursday, March 3. St. Mark students will celebrate by wearing "crazy hats" to school on that day. Students should also either bring a book to school, or plan to borrow one in the classroom. At 9:45 AM, we'll all "Stop, Drop and Read!" Dr. Seuss bookmarks will be distributed to students during their classroom library times throughout the week. Even the school cafeteria gets in on the act by serving The Cat In The Hat's favorite -- Green Eggs and Ham!

St. Mark students are asked to bring in a gently used book to share with a fellow Catholic school working to build a library. Books should be turned in to classroom teachers.

Catholic Social Teaching: Call to family, community and participation.

Who Benefits? Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Community

Due Date: Friday, February 26



LIFETIME LIONS

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!](#)

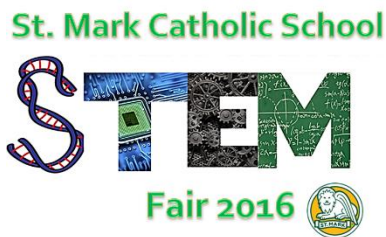
This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our Spirit Days, which are held on the first Monday of each month!



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL



SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK S.T.E.M. FAIR



SAVE THE DATE!

**St. Mark Catholic School's
First Annual
S.T.E.M. Fair**

**April 8, 2016
6:00-8:00 PM
St. Mark Campus**

Experience interactive displays, hands-on activities and interesting information for children of all ages from the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Over 25 companies and organizations will be represented, including ...

**Apple
AT&T
Fujitsu
IBM**

Minutes from the January 28, 2016 School Advisory Council meeting are now available online by [clicking here](#).

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.

*We have new "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general information and Open House dates. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. [Click here](#) to see a sample.

NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school! Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

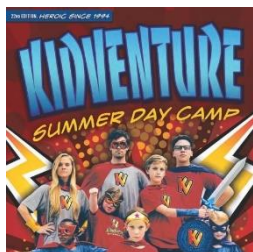
Intel
Raytheon
Texas Instruments
The University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Dallas

Food and entertainment details are in the works, so plan on making a night of it with your family!

Questions? Contact
pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

We are honored to have **Allison N. '14** serve as one of the event Co-Chairs.

START PLANNING SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!



St. Mark Summer Camps With Kidventure: We are pleased to once again offer full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure. Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is **Summer Quest 2016**, a comic book come to life. Each week provides a new and unique adventure.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at <http://kidventure.com/register>. Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

For more information, please visit <http://kidventure.com/plano-summer-camp/>, or call [214.303.9789](tel:214.303.9789).

MS. WILLIAMS NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is still 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!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

DPL Basketball Playoffs:

Teams have been participating in playoff games all week. Come out and cheer on your LION teams*!

Friday, February 26 @ St. Mark

6:00 PM: 6th grade JV girls D2:
St. Mark Green vs. St. Mark Gold

7:00 PM: 8th grade boys D2:
St. Mark Green vs. TBD

8:00 PM: 8th grade boys D2:
St. Mark Gold vs. TBD

Sunday, February 28 @ JP II

3:00 PM: 7th grade boys vs. TBD

*Games are subject to change. Please confirm with team coaches.

During home games, be sure to visit our fully-stocked concession stand, and stock

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK

Order your St. Mark Legacy Brick today!

This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. Anyone, including students, families, alumni, parishioners, and parish ministries and organizations are encouraged to purchase a brick. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. Simply [click here](#) to place your order.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Thursday, March 24: Living Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 30, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium:
HSA General Meeting

HELP NEEDED:

Parent Readers Needed: Readers are needed for Mrs. Helm's PK-4 class. Do you have 20 minutes on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays? It doesn't have to be every week or both

up on LION gear at the Lion's Den spirit store!



ST. ANDREW DINNER FOR HIGH SCHOOL-AGE MALES INTERESTED IN PRIESTHOOD

The annual St. Andrew Dinner will be held on March 14 from 6:00-8:00 PM at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Dallas. All high school-age males who are interested in the priesthood are encouraged to attend. If interested, please RSVP to the Office of Vocations at (214) 379-2860 or www.dallasvocations.org.

FROM THE NET TEAM

Let Us Adore

7:30-9:30pm @ St. Mark's Church



Let us Adore is an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, led by the NET Team, that is full of charismatic praise and worship as well as silence. Young and old are invited to pray together as a parish community.

Feb 12th • March 10th • March 31st
April 14th • May 6th

Middle School Youth Open House: This popular weekly get-together for 6th-8th

days...whatever works for your schedule!
Consider reading to Ms. Helm's PK-4 class at 12:00 PM for 20 minutes. Please contact Erica Rivera for more information and/or to be added to the schedule:
ebakerhrw@yahoo.com.

PK-5th Grade Memory Book Pictures:

Preschool-5th grade Memory Book pictures are needed. If you have pictures of Preschool-5th grade students, please download them directly to the memory book website (school activities, band, music, plays, spirit day, sports and candid). Please make sure the photos that are downloaded are not blurry, and are from a high resolution camera. A lot of pictures are taken with smartphones these days and unfortunately, the resolution isn't high enough, so those photos cannot be used in the memory book. Here's how to download the pictures:

Go to www.yearbookforever.com.
Type: St Mark (for the name, capital "S," no period after "St").
Click on "St Mark lower school"
Click on "Community upload" button
Access code: stmarklions

REMINDERS:

Helping Hands Committee:

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death or any life changing event, please [click here](#) to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

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

graders takes place every Friday from 3:30-6:00 PM at the St. Mark Youth House, located behind the church. It is an opportunity to hang out with the NET Team and other students from the community. Notify [Patricia Opon](#) by Thursday of each week if your student wishes to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal.



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:**

February - 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,

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: Keep sending in those Box Tops. 3rd grade is leading the competition and 4th grade is in second place. The deadline for the competition is Friday, April 22. The class with the most Box Tops will win a free dress day on Thursday, April 28!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Father Cliff Talks With 2nd Grade: Father Cliff paid a visit to our 2nd graders this week to talk with them about his journey to the priesthood. They had lots of good questions for him. An interesting fact that he shared with them was that he recently came across a document that showed the name of the doctor that delivered him as a baby. The doctor's name? Dr. Priest. How's that for a fun fact about our Pastor?

(photo removed)

Lunch With the Principal: It's not every day that you get to have lunch with the school's Principal. But if you're "Caught Being Good," you might get to do just that! Several of our students have been "caught being good" lately, and as a reward, they enjoyed a special lunch with Mrs. Opon on Wednesday. Getting caught doing something good ... awesome.

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: March 20, April 17, and May 15.

BISHOP LYNCH PRINCESS & KNIGHT PARTY

Calling All Princesses and Knights! The Blackfriars Guild of Bishop Lynch High School invites you and your family to attend a 2:00 PM matinee performance of *Once Upon a Mattress*, the musical rendition of the fairy tale *The Princess and the Pea*, on Sunday, February 28. During intermission, they will host a Princess Party for all guests ages 2-10. Cookies and punch will be served. Guests should come dressed in their royal finest (princess, court jester, knight, king or queen). Following the show, guests will

Getting to bend the Principal's ear over a nice lunch ... priceless!

(photos removed)

Preschool PJ Day: Our preschool students enjoyed PJ Day on Wednesday! Fun lessons included making "pizza," playing with "pegs," and putting together "puzzles." Learning about the letter "P" sure is phenomenal!

(photos removed)

Auction Party: Our wonderful preschool teachers recently hosted the lucky winners of the "Baby, It's Cold Outside" preschool party package from our Sweethearts Gala & Auction. They had a great time decorating cupcakes and doing fun, winter-related crafts!

(photo removed)

1st Grade Inventions: 1st grade is studying inventors and inventions. This week, they were able to use things from the past such as a typewriter, telephone and a record player. Next week, they will participate in a STEM project and will create their own inventions.

(photo removed)

3rd Grade Rocks! Our 3rd grade classes have been studying rocks in science class. Recent activities include labs such as weighing and measuring the rocks, as well as scratch, acid and float tests. Yesterday, they made their rocks into "pet rocks." They will soon write a story about their pet rocks and then use the

mingle and take photos with cast members. This is a wonderful opportunity for birthday parties, scouting events, or any other small group activity. Tickets are \$10. Group rates are available. Call (214) 324-3607, x131 or email terry.may@bishopolynch.org to make reservations.

THERESE: THE STORY OF A SOUL, BENEFITTING BIRTH CHOICE

St. Luke Productions presents "*Therese: The Story of a Soul*," a fundraiser benefitting the Birth Choice Catholic pregnancy resource center. Be inspired by this amazing live drama about one of the world's most beloved saints. The performance takes place on Saturday, March 5. Choose to attend a 2:00 PM matinee, a 5:30 PM dinner and show, or an 8:00 PM show-only performance at the Eisemann Center. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more information. Purchase tickets at www.eisemanncenter.com.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Congratulations to **Selena P. '10**. Selena attended Bishop Lynch High School and is currently a sophomore at The University of Notre Dame. She has landed a job at the *South Bend Tribune* this summer, and will be interning

Chatterpix app on the iPad to make the story come to life.

(photo removed)

5th Grade Gets Costumes, Compliments of Father Cliff: Father Cliff has been so kind to use his talents and his free time to make costumes for our students' various projects and performances. This week, 5th grade took delivery of a phenomenal set of colonial costumes for an upcoming project. Thank you, Father Cliff!

(photo removed)

7th Grade Spanish Class: The 7th grade Spanish classes recently had the honor and blessing to welcome Mrs. Yofre-Treble, to talk about her home country of Argentina. The students had prepared questions for Mrs. Yofre-Treble as they started their Argentina unit last week. Mrs. Yofre-Treble shared a lot of fascinating information, as well as her famous homemade cookies, from Argentina: Alfajores de maicena con dulce de leche y coco, that the students devoured!

(photo removed)

Biblical Languages Elective: After several weeks of learning the basics of Aramaic, Jesus's language, the Biblical Languages elective students are now starting Greek. This week they learned the Greek alphabet and discovered a song called *O Efialtis tis Persefonis* sung by Maria Farantouri.

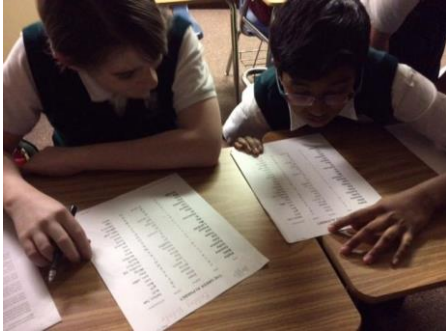
with CBS in New York next summer.

Hannah K. '13, junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was recently selected to the Texas Private School Music Educators All-Region Orchestra and will perform a concert with the Honors Orchestra this Saturday, February 27, at Bishop Dunne High School.

Ivanka P. '14, sophomore at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, recently earned superior ratings at the TPSMEA Regional Solo and Ensemble Competition at Legacy Christian Academy.

Young Men's Service League: We are proud of the fact that many of our graduates and their mothers have participated in this organization for years. Their goal is to encourage young men to pursue philanthropic involvement in their community and to provide an opportunity to enhance mother/son relationships. The following St. Mark alumni mothers and their high school age sons currently participate. The boys attend several different high schools. Together, they are required to complete a certain number of service hours each year.

Nichole A. (**Daniel '14**)



JPII Presents *The Jungle Book*: The John Paul II High School Musical Theater group visited our campus last week and presented their rendition of *The Jungle Book*. Our students loved the interactive performance, which included one of our own, **Amanda L. '14!**



Mary B. (Jason '14/Joseph '12)
Sylvia C. (Dylan '14)
Marina D. (Rafael '12/Kristian '15)
Dana G. (Worth '15)
Odette I. (Alec '14)
Lynette J. (Ethan '15)
Victoria J. (Mitchell '15/Nate '13)
Barbara J. (Scott '12)
Chris K. (Jake '12/Nate '14)
Maria L. (Nick '15)
Kim M. (Trey '13)
Melody M. (Ethan '15)
Kathy M. (Nick '14)
Mimi N. (Will '13)
Lauren O. (Wil '14)
Mia P. (Chase '15)
Karolyn R. (Shawn '12)
Karen R. (Seth '15)
Pat R. (Eric '14)
Meg R. (Carter '14)
Kathy S. (Sam '13)
Tina V. (Daniel '14)

[Click here](#) for more information.



LION PRIDE!

Quiz Bowl: The St. Mark Quiz Bowl team placed 2nd out of 18 teams in last Saturday's Texas Quiz Bowl Alliance tournament held at Greenhill School. The final round was very close. In

the end, our Lions were narrowly bested by St. Mark's School of Dallas. It was truly an exciting day! Congratulations to team members Antonio M., Minh-Khanh P., Aenghus D., Harrison K., Emilio R., and Paul K.

Antonio M. was also the top scorer for the competition, placing 1st out of 74 competitors. His score exceeded the second place contestant by more than 300!

(photo removed)



National

Geographic Bee:

Congratulations to Antonio M. who has qualified to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee to be held April 1!

DPL Scholar-Athlete Award:

Congratulations once again to 8th grader, Charlie S., who was one of five students presented with the DPL Scholar-Athlete Award for 2016 at the DPL All-Star Game last week!

(photo removed)

Math Counts: Our St. Mark Math Counts team, led by

Cistercian junior, **Chris B. '13**, recently enjoyed taking part in the Math Counts Competition Series at UTD. These middle school students meet weekly to practice advanced math skills, and also compete in national math contests throughout the school year. Pictured below are Minh Khanh P., Alonso T., Chris B., Antonio M., Anish K. and Sarah H.

(photo removed)

Two LIONS Teams Go Undefeated: Our St. Mark 5th grade girls green, and our 7th grade boys D-2 basketball teams both went undefeated in the regular season. One "5th grade fan" in particular was happy to be there to cheer on the LIONS ...!

(photo removed)

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