



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 26, 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.

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## REMINDERS

Friday, September 2:



### 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 1% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



## QUICK LINKS

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 7th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

### Monday, September 5:

-Labor Day Holiday; no school for students.

### UPDATED ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please [click here](#) for the latest edition of the 2016-17 Academic Calendar, and please note the early release day on May 5, not May 12.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the Principal of St. Mark Catholic School, I feel it is so important that you, as school parents, are aware of the many wonderful programs that are available to you and your children. In addition, it's vital that you have a strong grasp of what your students are engaging in during the school day.

You will soon see that our entire staff is making a concerted effort this year to increase our level of communication between school and home. It is my hope that you are not only able to use this additional information for your own benefit, but that you are able to share it with others who may be considering St. Mark for their children.

In this spirit, I personally will be highlighting a different aspect of our school community each month in the "Weekly School Bulletin." To kick-off this effort, allow me to introduce you to the St. Mark School Advisory Council (SAC).

**What is the School Advisory Council and what is its purpose?** The St. Mark School Advisory Council is a body consisting of eight voting members appointed by the Pastor. The Pastor, Principal and Assistant Principal are ex-officio members. The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to

[Limited Openings for 2016-17](#)  
[Lions Den Spirit Store](#)  
[Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)  
[Referral Thank You Program](#)

### 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.



**Charity:** Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. [Click here](#) for the 2016-17 monthly virtues.



**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.

**August Project:** 5 Random Acts of Kindness in 10 days. Teachers provide students with a form to record their work.

**Catholic Social Teaching:** Solidarity

**Who Benefits?** Various individuals and organizations

**Due Date:** Wednesday, August 31



act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and Principal in the areas of school policy, finance, strategic planning, operational effectiveness, and promotion of Catholic education. The SAC functions under the direction of the Diocesan School Advisory Council.



### The 2016-17 St. Mark School Advisory Council:

Gilberto Aguilar-President & Technology Committee  
Paula Allgood-Finance Committee  
Angela Baldwin-Secretary & Technology Committee  
Mitch Bates-Vice President & Facilities Committee  
John Garvey-Finance & Technology Committees  
Jeff Hoke-Facilities Committee  
Claudine Humphries-Finance Committee  
Bill Wray-Facilities Committee

As a further introduction, please stop by the display case located in the breezeway between the Administration offices and the Cafetorium and read more about our members on the new SAC board.

Council meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month from August through May. For more information, please visit the [SAC page](#) on our website.

Please consider serving on the SAC at some point during your tenure at St. Mark. If you are interested, you may contact me directly. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to highlighting another important aspect of our community next month.

Patricia Opon  
Principal  
[patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net)

## NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

### DPL Sports Team Registration Information:

- \*Cross Country is open for registration until September 2. Please [click here](#) for details.
- \*The DPL Tennis Tournament will take place on November 12 at Collin College in Plano. Registration will open September 19 and close October 14. [Click here](#) for more details.
- \*Coming soon: DPL Swim Meet date



**All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Run:** Mark your calendar for the annual St. Mark All Souls Run -- Saturday, October 29! Register before September 1 and your complimentary t-shirt will be upgraded to a tech shirt! [Click here](#) for registration and more information.

Sponsorships Available: We are currently seeking sponsorships for the All Souls Run, and we are offering some fun incentives to anyone who brings in \$250 or more in sponsor dollars:

- \*Any athlete who raises over \$500 in sponsorships receives a St. Mark Letter Jacket!
- \*Any athlete who raises over \$250 in sponsorships receives a certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store to purchase the gear of their choice!

Click the link above for more information about sponsorships.



**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.ehring@stmcs.net](mailto:marlene.ehring@stmcs.net) if you are interested in helping.

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new students who are joining our community this year:

Dominic B.	2	Ms. Eisele
Jillian B.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Jovanny G.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Brooks M.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Don N.	7	Mrs. Mitchell HB
Akhil P.	3	Mrs. Dansby

## PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT HANDOUTS

**Handouts:** Our "Parent Information Nights" were held earlier this week. If you were unable to attend, please [click here](#) to access the grade-level handouts distributed by teachers.

**Special Volunteer Opportunity:** We also presented a special opportunity for parents to volunteer for our 2016-17 St. Mark fundraising events: Auction, All Souls 1K/5K Run, Fall Festival, and Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic. If you can help, please fill out and return a response card ([click here](#), or pick one up in the school office). Remember, we don't ask families to sell wrapping paper or candles -- these four events are our only fundraisers, and we greatly appreciate any amount of time you can devote towards making them a big success for our students and our school community!

## WELCOME DEACON FEDERICO, SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

We are pleased to announce that Deacon Federico Marquez is the new Pastoral Associate at St. Mark Catholic Church. We are fortunate that he will also serve as chaplain for St. Mark Catholic School. He has been a Deacon for five years, and has served at St. Mark for



## ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

The mission of the Community Prayer Team is to provide ways that we, as a community, can come together and pray throughout the year.



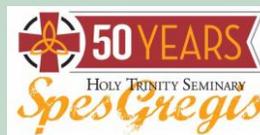
**30 Days of Praying for Your Child's New School Year:** We would like to invite all of our families to pray for your child(ren)'s school year. [Click here](#) for a great resource with specific daily intentions.

**Meetings:** The Community Prayer Team meets monthly at 8:00 AM on St. Mark Spirit Days. Our first meeting of the year will be September 12 at 8:00 AM in Room 137. If you are unable to make the meeting because of work or other obligations, it's ok! There will be plenty of ways for everyone to participate this year, no matter what your schedule. For more information, [click here](#), or contact [KathleenFrye@yahoo.com](mailto:KathleenFrye@yahoo.com); 214-551-8887.



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:



You are invited to attend the Holy Trinity Seminary "50th Year" Spes Gregis Dinner (the hope of the flock),

welcoming their seminarians and introducing them to the Catholic community. The dinner will take place on Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. For

the last year. Please welcome Deacon Federico to our community!

### FAITH IN ACTION ASSEMBLY

We've revamped our All School Service Project program this year, and with that comes an extra effort to teach students how to give from their hearts. One way to accomplish this is to "put a face" to each collection that we conduct on campus. On Friday, September 2 at 9:30 AM in the Cafetorium, we will present an assembly that introduces students to representatives from the organizations that will benefit from our monthly service projects. Parents are welcome to attend.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

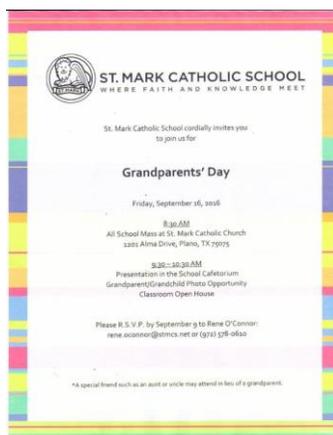
The St. Mark After School Program is in need of workers. Workers earn \$15.00 per hour, and their children may attend the program for free. Interested? Contact [toni.jobses@stmcs.net](mailto:toni.jobses@stmcs.net).

Flexible schedules are available:

- \*Work 1-5 days per week, or be a substitute
- \*Arrive at 3:15 PM and work until 5:00 or 6:00 PM

### GRANDPARENTS' DAY INVITATIONS

St. Mark will hold its first



Grandparents' Day on Friday, September 16. Invitations have been mailed to all grandparents in our database with

tickets, sponsorships, underwriting or donations, contact Mrs. Agnes Denvir directly at [agnes.denvir@stmcs.net](mailto:agnes.denvir@stmcs.net).

**Public Masses:** Join us for upcoming Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062: August 28, September 11.

### BEVERAGE POUCH RECYCLING

Please remind your children to recycle their beverage pouches (Capri Sun, Honest Kids, etc.) during lunch. They simply need to remove the straws and place the empty drink pouches in the special collection bin located at the front of the Cafeteria. Not only do we keep these pouches out of landfills which is good for the environment, but the school earns money for recycling them!



ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women. More information can be found [here](#). St. Mark's new fall ENDOW study begins September 7. We will be studying the apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*. Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Smyth Pastoral Center and childcare is available upon request. [Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Liz Quarles](#).



"The Choice Wine" marriage enrichment program integrates the latest findings from modern science with the teaching of the faith and the wisdom of saints. Hosted by St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Center, it will begin with a Saturday morning retreat on September 17 and will continue with weekly Thursday evening

complete mailing addresses. If your child's grandparent does not receive an invitation, please be sure to share a copy -- [Click here](#). RSVPs are due to Rene O'Connor at [rene.oconnor@stmcs.net](mailto:rene.oconnor@stmcs.net) by September 9.

### REMINDER: PREFECT FEES DUE AUGUST 31

Upon enrollment, all families with students in grades Preschool - 5th grade make a registration commitment of five days of Prefect Duty (lunchroom and recess supervision). (Prefect duty is not required of families with only a Middle School student.) A \$100.00 Prefect Fee is paid at the beginning of each school year and is a deposit on this time commitment. This fee is refunded upon completion of all five days. Fees can be paid directly to the school office, or online by [clicking here](#). **Please be reminded that a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed on any payment made 5 business days after the due date (refer to page 15 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for details).** If you still need to sign-up for your Prefect days, please [click here](#) for the online Prefect Calendar.



### HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

#### UPCOMING HSA DATES:

-September 7, 8:00 AM: Committee Chair & Room Parent Meeting

-HSA Membership Drive starts August 29 and runs through September 9

#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

We still need volunteers to **pull papers** (for 1st & 2nd grades only) and to **read to the class** (for TK through 2nd grade). Additionally, we need **library helpers** for Kindergarten (Thompson), 1st grade (McCormick), 3rd grade (Paulson) and

meetings from September 22-November 3. Please [click here](#) to register.



TROOPS  
OF  
SAINT GEORGE  
VIRTUS. HONOR. FRATERNITAS.

The Troops of Saint George is an apostolate for Catholic men and their sons. We aim to support boys and their fathers as we discern and live our vocations with heroic virtue, strengthen our families, and fulfill our role in the New Evangelization. Camping, true Catholic brotherhood, survival skills, iron sharpening iron, and more. Interested? Contact Peter Reisinger at 972-424-0828 or [peter@reisingerfamily.net](mailto:peter@reisingerfamily.net), or visit [www.troopsofsaintgeorge.org](http://www.troopsofsaintgeorge.org).

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

4th grade (Flores). Please [click here](#) for details.

The following classes are in need of **Room Parent** volunteers: Escobar (needs 1), Brooks (needs 1), Crider (needs 1), Eisele (needs 1), Paulson (needs 3), Samples (needs 1), Ferri (needs 2), and Ostermann (needs 1). Please contact [dourtyj@gmail.com](mailto:dourtyj@gmail.com) to sign up.

**30TH ANNUAL DINNER & 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 Eric Librea ([ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu)) if you are interested in helping out at this year's event.

**REMINDERS:**

**Volunteer Pledge Forms:** 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.

**HSA Dues:** Please pay your HSA dues (\$20) by September 9. 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 fund all of the great events and activities that HSA sponsors each year for our students (such as Field Day, ice cream sandwiches during Catholic Schools Week, First Communion, Graduation/Confirmation receptions, and movie nights). Those who pay their dues will receive a copy of the school directory, and the option to volunteer at Field Day.

**School Directories:** Directories will be distributed at the end of September to ensure that 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 Box Tops! 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.

**St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075**  
[www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net) | (972) 578-0610

St. Mark Catholic School, 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075

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