



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

January 27, 2017

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, January 27:

-2nd grade received the Vocations Chalice at Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-Re-registration for current families begins (details below).

-PK-5th Grade Memory Book Sale Ends



Saturday, January 28:

-Students represent St. Mark in uniform at Mass.

Sunday, January 29:

-Students represent St. Mark in uniform at Mass.

-9:00 AM, Church: 5th Grade Choir Sings at Mass



A National School of Excellence

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QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)
[Admissions](#)
[Lunch Menus](#)
[Safe Environment](#)

-10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym: Used Uniform Sale (details below)

-10:15 AM, Main School Hallway: Class of 2016 Portrait Unveiled

Monday, January 30 - Pastor Appreciation Day:

-9:15 AM (ECE) & 9:30 AM (Cafetorium): Pastor Appreciation Assemblies

-Laps for Leukemia Begins

Tuesday, January 31 - Family Appreciation Day:

-9:00-10:00 AM: Open House

-11:00-12:30 PM: Family Lunch, Open House, Art Show

-12:30 PM, Cafetorium: SmartLab Presentation

Wednesday, February 1 - Student Appreciation Day:

-Buck-A-Jean, Buck-A-Tennie (students pay \$2 to wear jeans/tennis shoes to school; refer to page 25 of the Parent Student Handbook for guidelines)

-7:00 AM, Cafetorium: Catholic Math League Test (participants were previously notified)

-2:15 PM, Bacot Gym: Spring Pep Rally

Thursday, February 2-Teacher Appreciation Day:

-8th Grade-Teacher Switch Day

Friday, February 3-Community & World Appreciation Day:

-7:30-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: Lion's Den Spirit Store

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass planned by the 2nd grade. All are welcome.

-International Tasting Faire

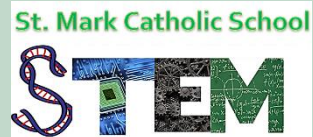
-12:00 PM, EARLY DISMISSAL. The After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM. Students will have eaten at the Tasting Faire so there is no need to send a lunch with ASP students unless you feel they need additional food.



-10:00AM-11:00 PM: Half Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Place your order, mention St. Mark, and a percentage of the sale goes to the Athletics Dept.

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: 2ND
ANNUAL S.T.E.M.
FAIR! MAY 5, 2017**



You know how fun last year's S.T.E.M. Fair was...this year's event is going to be even bigger and better! **Mark your calendar for Friday, May 5 from 5:00-8:00 PM** and get ready for more robots, experiments, and much, much more! We've expanded the fair to two gyms this year in order to accommodate all of the participating companies and individuals. It's an evening where our entire community can learn and play together -- don't miss out!

Are you or your company interested in hosting a booth at the S.T.E.M. Fair? It's free of charge, and a great way to interact with hundreds of families. Simply contact [Pam Steinkirchner](#).

OPEN HOUSES



Open Houses are coming up and we can use your help to get the word out in several ways:

Saturday, February 4:

-8:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Confirmation Retreat #1

Monday, February 6:

-St. Mark Spirit Day! Refer to page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines.

-8:00 AM: Community Prayer Team Meeting

2017-18 RE-REGISTRATION BEGINS TODAY

Re-registration for the 2017-18 school year begins TODAY and runs through Friday, February 17. Refer to the separate email from Business Manager, Annette Vela, which contains complete details and instructions. Be sure that all financial obligations are current to prevent holds.

FACTS TAX STATEMENTS

It's that time of year again...everyone is scrambling to gather their tax information. In order to help, FACTS has enhanced their system to allow families to print their payment history by calendar year. Please follow the instructions below to view/print your payment history for the current year, or [click here](#) for an informational flyer. Questions? Call 866-441-4637.

Step 1: Sign into FACTS at <https://online.factsmgt.com>.

Step 2: Click on "View Details."

Step 3: Select the "Payments" tab.

Step 4: Select "View Printable Payment Summary."

Step 5: Select the year you need and then "Print."

BE A HOST FAMILY FOR 2017-18

One of the most important things we can do as a school community is to make our new families feel welcome. As part of that effort, we match every new family with an existing school family, called a "Host Family." Host Families welcome our new parents and students and act as a resource for them throughout the school year. It's not only a great outreach opportunity, but a great way to make new friends. **Can you serve as a Host Family next year?** We will have sign-up sheets available during Family Day on Tuesday, 1/31 in the front lobby, outside the cafeteria, and at the ECE building. Please take a moment to volunteer in this capacity -- it makes such a difference in our community! Questions about Host Families? Contact [Liz Delaney](#).

*Know anyone interested in a cutting-edge education for their child that is rooted in our Catholic faith? Pass along our Open House dates:

***Tuesday, January 31, 9:00-10:00 AM**

***Tuesday, February 7, 6:00-7:30 PM**

Interested families may visit www.stmcs.net to register for an Open House.

Open House and School Tour Referral Incentive:

Simply send someone you know to visit an upcoming Open House or take a school tour. Once they attend in person and indicate you as a referral, we'll send you a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store...it's that easy!

* Do you participate in a **neighborhood blog or website** such as www.nextdoor.com, or a neighborhood Facebook page? If so, please post our Open House dates (see above)! If there is room for more details, simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and she'll send them to you for posting.

***And don't forget our Referral Thank You Program:** Refer a new family to St. Mark and you could receive a \$500 tuition credit. [Click here](#) for details.



Another Work of Heart Award for St. Mark! Congratulations to Ms. Pam Steinkirchner, our beloved Assistant Principal. Ms. Steinkirchner gives her all to our students every day, and her passion for St. Mark shines through in everything that she does for our entire community. Awarded by The Catholic Foundation, the Work of Heart recognizes those who go above and beyond for Catholic education. Our staff has received the Work of Heart 44 times since it was introduced in 2005, and has received six this school year. To nominate a staff member for this award, simply [click here](#).



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS

Catholic Schools Week starts this weekend: January 28-February 3! Information has been sent to all families and can also be found on the [school website](#). Be sure to read through all of the documents so you and your student are prepared for each day's activities.



Important Reminders:

- *Save the Date: January 31 - Family Day Lunch, Open House, & Student Art Show
- *Start on "Laps for Leukemia" service project pledges
- *Order the International Tasting Faire Passport

We look forward to celebrating CSW with all of you!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2016-17 Preschool-5th Grade Memory Book: Memory books are now available for pre-order! To place your order online, simply visit www.yearbookforever.com and enter "St. Mark Catholic Lower School" when prompted. You may also order your memory book by filling out the order form that was sent home last week. You may submit cash or check to Rene O'Connor in the front office. Checks should be made out to *St. Mark Catholic School* and on the memo line please indicate

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

USED UNIFORM SALE

Does your child need some additional school uniform pieces to get through the remainder of the year? The Home & School Association will hold a Used Uniform Sale this Sunday, January 29 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. Volunteer and service hour opportunities are available. [Click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius.

Used uniform donations will be accepted in the school office through today, January 27. Please note that, while we no longer accept green pant donations for the Used Uniform Sale, we are accepting them on behalf of Orphan Outreach. Donations will be sent to the Madeline School in Africa. See photos of our most recent green pant donation on [Facebook](#).

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Future Friar Night at BL:

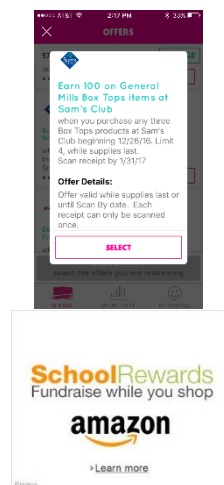
"memory book." The cost of the memory book is \$25. Quantities are limited. **The deadline to order has been extended until February 10.** Please contact [Beth Salava](#) or [Aisling Peden](#) with questions.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Hospitality Co-Chair: This is a great way to contribute and be part of the our school family community. A description of this position is available [here](#). Please contact [Ashley Ternan](#) with any questions.

PK3-2nd Grade Readers/Paper Pullers Needed: The HSA would like to extend our appreciation to our Classroom Reader and Paper Puller volunteers for their gift of time. We still have available spots this year. If you are interested or have questions, please contact [Jill Dourty](#).

Box Tops: Please continue to collect Box Tops! Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in to the school office. **And new this year... in addition to collecting Box Tops from product labels, you can earn bonus Box Tops via the Box Tops app available for both iPhone and Android devices.** It's free and easy to use! Simply load the app, pick from the offers, and scan a copy of your paper receipt. These offers can be repeated. The school is listed as **st mark catholic school** when you create your log in (note spacing). Or you can search school ID: 184443. In addition, this month, Sam's Club has a special promo via the app for 100 bonus Box Tops (\$10!) when you purchase 3 General Mills products. This offer can also be repeated. Please consider adding the app to your phone and using it when you purchase groceries. This is free money for the school! If you have any questions, contact [Holly Lewis](#) or [Jennifer Pike](#).



Basketball Season: Click [here](#) for game schedules. Come out and cheer on your LIONS! And don't forget to visit the Lion's Den Spirit Store during home games for all of your St. Mark gear!

Registration is Open for Spring Sports: The deadline to register is February 28. Click [Baseball/Softball](#) or [Track & Field](#) for details.

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

Coach Safe Environment Training: All volunteer coaches for Baseball, Softball, and Track must submit their [Safe Environment](#) certification to [Marlene Ehling](#) as soon as possible.



Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic: This annual event is scheduled for May 19, 2017.

Amazon School Rewards Program: St. Mark earns money when you shop at Amazon through the link on our school website. **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:**



Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery Shopping: Link your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries. Kroger cards must be relinked each year.

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

30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

3 weeks and counting until the 30th Annual Gala and Auction! We are at 75% capacity.....time to [click here](#) and buy tickets.



Current Ticket Purchase Incentive: Congratulations to Will and Jennifer Arnold! They won the overnight Marriott stay in the January 20th drawing!

LAST TICKET INCENTIVE: Anyone who purchases tickets between January 21st and February 10th will be placed in a raffle for a free night stay at the Marriott Legacy Town Center to be used the night of the event or prior to the end of 2017 AND two bottles of wine at their table the night of the event. If you have previously purchased a ticket and would like to be entered into this drawing, you may purchase additional tickets for friends or faculty members. Also note, anyone who purchases a table (10 tickets totaling \$750) will receive two bottles of wine at their table the night of the event.

Your kiddos will get in on the ticket purchase incentives too:

*Students whose parents attend and are from the **class** with the best parent turnout, will get an ice cream party at Sweet Firefly! **The current frontrunner is Mrs. Brooks (64%) followed closely by Mrs. Ferri (59%) and Mrs. Helm (56%).**

*Students whose parents attend and are from the **grade level** with the best parent turnout, will get an afternoon of bowling, bounce houses, etc. **The current frontrunner is 2nd grade at 54% followed closely by 1st grade at 50%.**

We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehring](#) if you are interested.

ST. MARK CELEBRATION OF LOVE

St. Mark presents the annual "Celebration of Love," an evening of love, laughter, dinner, dancing and marriage enrichment on Saturday, February 11 at 6:45 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. [Click here](#) for details.

JOHN PAUL II RAFFLE

John Paul II High School is conducting a raffle for FREE tuition or an \$18,000 Visa Gift Card! It will take place April 1 at the JP II Gala. Each ticket is \$10.00. Purchase online or contact [Kelly Petruy](#). All proceeds benefit the Tuition Assistance Program at JP II.



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

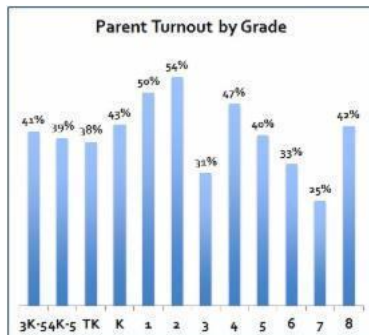
All Are Welcome! Join Holy Trinity Seminary for an upcoming Public Mass on January 29 at 9:15 AM at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062.

HEALTH FAIR

On Thursday, February 2 from 4:30-8:30 PM, there will be a free Heart Beats Health Fair at Children's Medical Center of Plano presented by Living For Zachary. Free youth heart screenings, health tests, drawings, information, educational talks, food and drinks will be offered. [Click](#)

Check out the turnout by class and by grade level so far:

Turnout by Class			
Rank	Grade	Teacher	%
1	2	Mrs. Stephanie Brooks	64%
2	5	Mrs. Kriszy Ferri	59%
3	1	Mrs. Patty Helm	56%
4	3K-5	Mrs. Megan Oliver	55%
4	2	Mrs. Victoria Crider	54%
5	4	Mrs. Helene Mercado	53%
6	1	Mrs. Eileen Bongiovanni	50%
6	M5	Mrs. Becky Johnson	50%
7	4	Mrs. Christina Flores	47%
8	4K-5	Mrs. Rosemary Coursey	47%
8	K	Mrs. Sharon Thompson	45%



We are still accepting donations...How to Donate:

Auction Baskets: Collection bins are in each classroom and the library for Middle School. If you have any questions about class Auction Baskets, please reach out to [Michelle Martin](#). Deadline 2/3.

Do you own a business that would like a 2017 tax deduction? Contact [Ann Rossigno](#) for more information on sponsorship packages. Deadline 2/15.

Do you or your company want to donate product, services or money? Contact [Chandi Owen](#) for more information. Deadline 2/15.

Purchase tickets for faculty and staff. It is a great way to show appreciation for the amazing job they do in educating our children. Deadline 2/15.

ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

[here](#) for more information. The JPII softball team is volunteering at the event!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

Quiz Bowl Impresses:



Harrison K. Wins Geography Bee:



Prayer Walk:



Kara N. & Jeslyn T. to Compete in Handwriting Contest:

January's Prayer Intention for our School: For the finances of our church and school



This Week's Prayer - A Prayer for Catholic School's Week:

Almighty Father, You sent forth your Son as a beacon of hope for all people. As Teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education. As disciples, we look to him for inspiration and strength.

Thank you for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools. Thank you for the teachers and administrators who sustain our schools today. Thank you for the parents who have given support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives. Thank you for the students who work hard to further their education.

Bless St. Mark Catholic School and the many people who advance our mission. May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others. May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

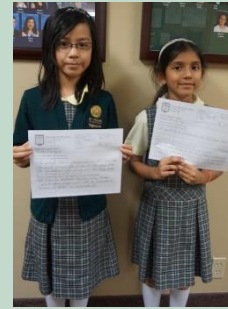
Fill our minds with knowledge and wisdom. May our understanding of the world help us to grow in appreciation for it. Fill our hearts with gladness. May we always turn to you in times of need. Fill our hands with the tools we need to serve others. May we show them your unceasing love through our actions.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us. St. John Neumann, pray for us. St. Mark the Evangelist, pray for us. Amen.

Source: www.thereligionteacher.com.

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Forward To A Friend



All Students Make Blankets:



Alexander G. Serves in Belize:



Tea Party @ After School Program:



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

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