



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

February 9, 2018

Prayer for the 2017-18 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 treat Jesus Christ, with all our heart, mind and soul.

REMINDERS

TODAY, February 9:

-5th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Middle School Movie Night hosted by HSA (details below)

Sunday, February 11:

-6:00 PM, Church: Children's Choir Sings at Mass

Tuesday, February 13:

-10:00 AM: Preschool Mardi Gras Parade



PEI WEI 3:30-7:00 PM: Pei Wei Spirit Night Benefiting Auction (details below)

Wednesday, February 14:

- "Wear Red or Pink" Dress Down Day (details below; see guidelines on page 28 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#))



A National School of Excellence

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

"Like" and "share" on your social media and help us spread the word about our wonderful school!

-8:30 AM, Church: Ash Wednesday Mass; all are welcome

Friday, February 16:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 5th grade. All are welcome.

-Deadline for 2018-19 current family re-enrollment

Monday, February 19:

-NO SCHOOL: President's Day

ST. MARK ... 2018 ICE AWARD FINALIST!

Why did we wear blue today? We are thrilled to announce that St. Mark Catholic School has been named 1 of 12 nationwide finalists in the 2018 *Today's Catholic Teacher* "Innovations in Catholic Education" (ICE) Awards and will receive special recognition at the ICE Awards event at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in April. St. Mark is one of three finalists in the category of "An Innovative Project Facilitated by Technology" for the integration of the new SmartLab into the curriculum. To celebrate, the campus is a "sea of blue" today as students and faculty/staff are all wearing blue clothing, plus it was announced after Mass that students will also get "ICE cream" at lunch! This is a huge honor for St. Mark and we couldn't be prouder!



LENTEN CHALLENGE

We are excited to begin our 2018 "**Lenten Challenge.**" The premise is simple - to embrace our Stewardship of Time - time spent with God at Mass.

Each student will journal and turn in their Lenten Challenge log to their Homebase teacher at the end of the six week Lenten period, due by April 4. For the younger students,

QUICK LINKS

- [Calendar](#)
- [Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Safe Environment](#)
- [Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)
- [Work of Heart Nomination](#)

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL
LIONS
NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

LIONS DEN

The Lion's Den Spirit Store is open every Friday morning that school is in session from 7:30-8:15 AM in the Cafeteria hallway. Can't make it in person? Shop online at www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear. Once an order has been submitted it will be bundled and ready for pick up on Friday. Note: Not all items available are offered online.

Mark your calendar:

Basketball Season: [Click here](#) for game schedules and plan to come out and cheer on your LIONS teams. Don't forget to visit the Lion's Den Spirit Store during all home games!

**Monsignor Smyth
Golf Classic:**
Friday, May 4, 2018



parents may ask their child about Mass and fill in their responses on the child's journal. We will then tally the results of each class. In PK3/4, TK/Kindergarten, and grades 1st-5th, the class in each grade level with the highest percentage of Mass attendance will receive a prize. In Middle School, the two Homebase classes with the highest percentage of Mass attendance will receive a prize.

Kids do not need to attend Mass here at St. Mark. It could be at a neighboring parish or at a church that you might go to on vacation over Spring Break. If your child happens to miss Mass one weekend, just leave that particular box blank.

Post the journal on your refrigerator or take it with you on the road. If needed, additional copies can be found on our [school website](#) under the "Parents" and "Forms" tabs, or you can [click here](#).

As always, let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Mass. *God Bless!*

WEAR PINK OR RED ON VALENTINE'S DAY!



In celebration of Valentine's Day, students may wear **pink** or **red** to school. There is no charge for this Dress Down Day. Please refer to page 28 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines.

SPRING ENRICHMENT CLUB ENROLLMENT OPEN

Information regarding Spring Enrichment Clubs was sent home earlier this week via email. The deadline to register is February 15. Click the following links to access the club offerings and permission form:

[Spring Club Offerings](#)

[Spring Club Permission Form](#)

HELP WITH EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Declan Wampner '17, a freshman at John Paul II High School, is a Boy Scout in St. Mark's Troop 285, and he would like your help with his Eagle Scout Project. Declan is organizing a



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 March. Sign-ups are due February 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

FEBRUARY SUPPER OF EXCELLENCE

Special thanks to our wonderful staffers who are providing the February "Supper of Excellence," an Italian feast, to the family who won this amazing package at last year's Auction: Phyllis Carver, Krissy Ferri, Patti Orchowski, Helene Mercado and Barbara Ehnis. Delizioso!

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Ursuline students and Cistercian relatives: Are you interested in Varsity Cheer at Cistercian Preparatory School? There will be a Pre-Tryout Meeting on April 3 at 5:30 PM. Clinics take place April 17-19 from 4:30-7:00 PM, and tryouts take place April 20 at 4:30 PM. For complete details, [click here](#) or visit www.hawkscheerdallas.com.



drive for the Samaritan Inn to collect urgently needed **small storage capacity USB drives and tub/shower cleaning supplies**. Please send one or more items to school with your student to help support Declan's Eagle Scout project and more importantly, the Samaritan Inn, the only homeless shelter in Collin County. Collection bins will be located in the school's main lobby just inside the school entrance from February 5-19. *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40*

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

2018-19 admission season is here! Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child? Here are some ways you can help us spread the word about St. Mark:



1. REFERRALS: Encourage prospective families to register for an upcoming **Open House**, our new **Come and Play Days**, or a **private tour** at www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours. If they attend, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate for the Lion's Den Spirit Store, and if they enroll, you could receive a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)

2018 Open Houses:

Tuesday, March 27, 8:00-9:00 AM, School Library
Tuesday, April 24, 5:30-7:00 PM, Early Childhood Bldg. (for PK/K families)

2018 Come and Play Days:

Families with preschool/kindergarten children are encouraged to play on our playground, enjoy a snack, and get a sneak peek inside our ECE classrooms. Open to individuals and playgroups.

Tuesday, March 20, 9:00-10:30 AM
Wednesday, April 11, 9:00-10:30 AM

2. NEIGHBORHOOD BLOG/WEBSITE: Do you participate in a neighborhood blog or website such as www.nextdoor.com, or a neighborhood Facebook page? If so, please take a moment to post our Open House and "Come and Play Day" dates (see above). If there is room for a detailed description, simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and she'll send the information to you for posting.

Prospective parents are invited to join new JP II



President, Deacon Jake Schroepfer, for coffee as he shares exciting updates and the vision for JP II in 2018 and beyond. "Coffee with the President" will be held on February 13 and March 6 from 8:00-9:00 AM. [Click here](#) to register.



Click [here](#) for the Consent Form.



Do you know a faculty or staff member who has gone the extra mile for the education community at St. Mark? Consider nominating him or her for a Work of Heart Award through the Catholic Foundation. It's quick and easy. Award recipients are recognized at an All School Mass with a certificate and a check. [Click here](#) for details and the nomination form.



TONIGHT:

Pre-Auction Mixer for grades 6-8 (everyone is welcome)
The Velasquez Home, Plano
[Click here](#) to RSVP.



PEI WEI
Pei Wei Spirit Night
15th Street & I-75 Location
February 13, 3:30-7:00 PM
20% of proceeds go to the Auction.



[2018 Auction Tickets Are On Sale Now - Click Here!](#)



New Challenges

Challenge 1: All tickets purchased between 1/1 and 2/14 (Early Bird Sale Ends) will be entered into a drawing for a free hotel room night stay. Buy two tickets, get put in the drawing twice!

Challenge 2: Winners of a free hotel room night are Aaron and Angie Baldwin. Congratulations!

Challenge 3: All teacher tables purchased from now 1/1-3/1 will get 2 VIP experiences and a bottle of wine on the night of the event

How You Can Help the Auction:



8th Grade Confirmation Retreats: A reminder about upcoming assigned retreat dates: February 10 and February 11. Contact [Linda Watts](#) with questions.

Open Youth House: There will be NO Open Youth House February 22-23.

Lenten Fish Fry Service Opportunity for Grades 6-8: February 16, March 2 and March 16. To sign-up, visit www.stmarkplanoyouth.org (under "Service") or contact Cristy Mijares at 972-578-9583 or cmijares@stmarkplano.org.

CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Join us for an evening of love and laughter, dinner and dancing on February 10 at 7:00 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center Great Room. Doors open at 6:45 PM.



Marriage enrichment will be presented by Deacon Jake Schroepfer: "Being Married While Staying Engaged." Make it your Valentine celebration!

Price: \$40 per couple. [Click here](#) for details and registration.

Questions? Call 972-424-5794.

1. Buy your tickets: Simply purchasing a ticket is a donation to the school.
2. Buy a teacher ticket: We have a large need for parents/ organizations to sponsor teacher tickets. This is a tax deductible donation and can be purchased on our [Auction website](#).
3. Auction Sponsorship: Do you own a small business that would help support St. Mark Catholic School? Contact [Jennifer Pike](#) to get details on our sponsorship packages.
4. Auction Donations: Do you work for a cool company that would like to donate a product to be auctioned-off or coupons for our swag bags? Do you have connections to a local business that would benefit from advertising their products and services to our community? Contact [Rebecca Battles](#) for details.

Upcoming Auction Events:

March 6 - Carpool line drop-off for all auction donations (baskets, class crafts, corporate donations, etc.)

March 20: Panera Bread, Richardson: Spirit Night

May 11: Metroplex Spirit Night (rescheduled)



**HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement. If you are interested, please check out the [Sign-Up Genius](#).



JA classes span five weeks, and each class is taught once a week for 30 minutes. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact [Kathleen Frye](#) or [Angela Coulter](#).



Join us for Mass with the seminarians on Sunday, February 18 at 9:15 AM at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving. Mass is followed by a reception with the seminarians.

FRENCH MASS AT CISTERCIAN

Come to French mass at Cistercian Abbey on Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 AM, 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving. There is an opportunity to do a reading in French and to enjoy French snacks afterwards.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

2018 ICE Finalist Award:



Visioneering @ SMU:

**CALLING ALL
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**



**HSA PRESENTS
Movie Night
THIS FRIDAY!!**

**Cafetorium
6:30pm**

**FEATURING
The Princess
Bride (PG)**

**Pizza, drink and a
movie snack provided**

****Please bring a blanket for
the floor.**



Math Counts @ UTD:



Let the competition begin! Box Tops are due on February 23! Please carefully cut out unexpired Box Tops from participating brands; place in a Ziploc or envelope; clearly write your child's grade/teacher on it; and turn them in to your child's teacher by February 23. Box Tops submitted without grade/teacher on them will not count for this competition! Please look for the flyer with the collection sheet in your student's folder/backpack today! Classroom/Homebase winners will receive "5 points on a quiz/exam" for grades 3-8 and winners in PK3-2 will receive a special treat. Thank you for your support!



8th Grade Bake Sale Results:



All registered Talent Show participants and alternates have been sent a detailed email with information regarding rehearsals. If you have not received an email, please contact Jolea Broome at jo_cool@sbcglobal.net.

CSW Student Appreciation:



Spring Pep Rally:



CSW Teacher Appreciation:



2018 HSA General Meetings:

*Please note that the March HSA meeting is being replaced by the Talent Show.

*May 2, 8:15 AM, Cafetorium: HSA 4th General Meeting

VOLUNTEER



Looking to volunteer? Check out the master [Sign Up Genius](#) link and all the ways you can help out.

ECE Music Help: Mrs. Schell needs help with the PK3 classes as students learn basic movement and music skills. Be ready to dance, skip and play instruments! The volunteer position is open to ALL volunteers, not just PK3 parents. You must be current on your Safe Environment certification to participate. [Click here](#) to sign-up.

ST. MARK SCRIP PROGRAM: Purchase gift cards for gifts, or stock up for stores and restaurants that you frequent. Use the gift cards as you would your own cash or credit cards. Tell family and friends - anyone can order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale! Orders are accepted year round.



NEW OFFER: Cabela's is currently offering greater rebates to the school for orders placed between February 3-9. [Click here](#) for Cabela's SCRIP. [Click here](#) for the full list of SCRIP retailers and order details.

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. For more information about our Prayer Team, [click here](#).



February's Prayer Intention for our School:

For other schools in the Diocese, the high school our children will attend, as well as those they may never enter.

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they attend their retreats: Father, guide these candidates as they prepare for Confirmation. Strengthen them in their baptismal promises, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Upcoming Events:

*Family Adoration: Friday, March 2, 3:50-4:15 PM, Sanctuary



*Prayer Team meeting: Monday, March 5, 8:00 AM, Room 116

*Community Prayer Walk: Friday, March 23, 7:55 AM, Narthex

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