



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

**Fall 2019**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Alumni Families:

Fall traditions are in full swing at St. Mark during this busy time of year. Numerous activities and traditions abound. It may not feel like it yet, but soon we'll be enjoying cooler temperatures, cozy clothing, and all the warm, wonderful flavors and aromas that come with the season. Our hallways are already beginning to fill with the smell of apples from the first grade Applefest unit, the sounds of second graders practicing for their annual Spunky Pumpkin play, and the sights of All Souls Remembrance Run posters -- all St. Mark Catholic School fall traditions!

Do you remember the Early Childhood Halloween costume parade and the first grade "The Giving Tree" play? They're both coming up, along with our annual Scholastic Book Fair, the middle school fall play, and of course, the annual 5th grade trip to The Pines.

[Click here](#) to access our Events Calendar for the year, and please know that we welcome our alumni any time. We've included details about a few of our larger events below. Simply check in at the front desk, get a visitor sticker, and join in on the fun!

Since the last newsletter, we've installed "musical flowers" in our outdoor learning area, a new piece of playground equipment, and our library renovations have been completed. I am thrilled to share some photos of these special projects.



**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 St. Mark students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.



St. Mark Catholic School was recognized as 1 of the top 3 Catholic schools in the nation for technology integration by *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

**Follow us and stay  
connected!**



You can see more on our social media pages, or even better, come and see them in person and celebrate the fall season with us!

Sincerely,



St. Mark alumni are invited to join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network. Keep up with former classmates, become a mentor to current students, and learn about opportunities to earn service hours. [Click here](#) to register.

#### LIONS MENTOR LIONS

**Alonso T. '18** a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School and **Paul S. '19**, a freshman at Cistercian Preparatory School, are leading the 2019-20 St. Mark Math Counts team. Math Counts consists of middle school students who practice advanced math techniques together and participate in national math competitions throughout the year. And bonus ... they had a record number of St. Mark students join this year!

*Patricia Opon*

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

P.S. Don't see your recent accomplishment in this newsletter? Please send it to us at [debbie.reed@stmcs.net](mailto:debbie.reed@stmcs.net). We'll include it in the next edition.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

The following alumni recently received academic honors and inductions into their high school honor societies:

### Bishop Lynch High School:

**Carissa T. '15** is a National Merit Commended Scholar, posting a score on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that places her within the top 3% of all U.S. high school students. She is also a National Hispanic Scholar.

**Charlie S. '15** is a National Hispanic Scholar.

**Rebecca W. '15** is a National Hispanic Scholar, and one of 34 females selected for the highly competitive Perry Outreach Program held at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

**Zosia S. '17** - National English Honor Society

**Samira V. '19** - National Spanish Honor Society

**Alonso T. '18** - Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society

### Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas:

**Antonio M. '16** is a National Merit Semifinalist, posting a score on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that places him within the top 1% of all U.S. high school seniors. He was also named a National Hispanic Recognized Scholar.

**Sam D. '15** is a National Merit Commended Scholar, posting a score on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that places him within the top 3% of all U.S. high school students.



**Chris S. '90**, a graduate of Ursuline Academy of Dallas, current St. Mark parent, and Associate Costume Director for The Dallas Theater Center, lends her time and talent to St. Mark's October service project each year -- blanket making for the Veterans Administration Hospital. She buys the blanket fabric in bulk for the entire school and cuts each one to size. Then the students take over, cutting and tying fringe to complete each one. We are so grateful for her contribution to this annual project!

**Kevin P. '16** was part of a team of John Paul II High School students to present a "Kindness Assembly" to Preschool-1st grade students.



**Ian S. '15** is a National AP Scholar (average score of 4 on all AP exams taken and score of 4+ on 8 or more exams).

**Sam D. '16** and **Antonio M. '16** are AP Scholars with Distinction (3.5 average score and 3+ score on 5 or more AP exams).

**Joseph F. '16** and **Cal T. '16** are AP Scholars with Honor (3.25 average score and 3+ score on 4 or more AP exams).

Alumni who earned a spot on the Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas "End of Year Honor Rolls" in Spring 2019 were:

Principal's Honor Roll: **Ethan J. '15, Miles P. '15, Ian S. '15, Sam D. '16, Antonio M. '16, Matthew N. '16, Cal T. '16, Emilio R. '17**

Honor Roll: **Avery B. '15, Jaibin M. '15, Jacob A. '16, Braxton B. '16, Joseph F. '16, Jalen L. '16, Matt N. '16, John N. '16, Jacob N. '16, Harrison K. '17, Luis R. '17, Luke H. '18, Ryan L. '18, Jack P. '18, Thomas W. '18**

John Paul II High School:

**Travis A. '16** - Mu Alpha Theta; **Justus B. '17** - National Honor Society; **Hannah B. '17** - National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta; **Daniela B. '17** - National Honor Society; **Matthew C. '17** - National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society; **Nicholas C. '17** - National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society; **Marti F. '17** - National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta; **Samantha I. '16** - Mu Alpha Theta; **Natalie J. '17** - National Honor Society; **Matthew M. '16** - National Honor Society; **Ella P. '17** - National Honor Society; **Zach V. '17** - National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society; **Declan W. '17** - National Honor Society

**Etoile I. '17** and **Emma O. '17** were members of the student leadership team from Bishop Lynch High School that presented a "Kindness Assembly" to 2nd-4th graders.



### BLAST FROM THE PAST

Thank you to longtime St. Mark parent, now grandparent, Kevin Gaskey, for forwarding this photo from the very first Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic in 1994. Left to right: Joe Hogan, Monsignor Claude Smyth, Kevin Gaskey, and Steve Schulke. Mr. Gaskey was there in the beginning and just recently participated in the 2019 tournament last month!



### FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY



A few of the JPII honor society inductees.

Ursuline Academy of Dallas:

**Sarah H. '16** is a National Merit Semifinalist, posting a selection index score on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that places her within the top 1% of all U.S. high school seniors.

**Joann N. '16** and **Megan W. '16** are National Merit Commended Scholars, posting scores on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that places them within the top 3% of all U.S. high school students.

In other alumni news:

**Charlie S. '16, Kennedy G. '17 and Zosia S. '17** are members of the Bishop Lynch High School Mock Trial Team that won 4th Place in their first YMCA National Tournament in Chicago during the 2018-19 school year. They also traveled to Yale University to compete in the "Bulldog Invitational" Mock Trial. Zosia and Charlie's team earned 2nd place and Kennedy's team earned 8th place out of 20 teams. Charlie also won an attorney award.

**Genevieve B. '19** received the "Freshman Camper of the Week" award at the Jesuit Ursuline Ranger Band Camp. She plays the flute.

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories.

**Manuela B. '18** recalls the Living Stations of the Cross, the Religion Bowl, The Pines, and Enterprise City as highlights of her time at St. Mark. Our current students are looking forward to all of these traditions in the coming months.

## YOU'RE INVITED

We invite all alumni and alumni families to come back to campus to volunteer, mentor our students, or simply take part in our events. If you're a high school student, you can even earn service hours!

### Here's what's coming up:



Want to participate?  
Visit [www.allsoulsrun.com](http://www.allsoulsrun.com).

Want to volunteer? Contact  
[marlene.ehring@stmcs.net](mailto:marlene.ehring@stmcs.net).

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**Lindsey G. '16**, a senior at John Paul II High School, was named one of three Captains of the Varsity Volleyball team.

It's all smiles for **Genevieve B. '19** and **Theresa T. '19** on Freshman Orientation Day at Ursuline Academy of Dallas.



**Alonso T. '18**, a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School, won 1st Place in the High School Division and 1st Place in the 10th grade bracket at a Number Sense competition held by the Kerala Association of Dallas as a part of their India Cultural and Education Center, and placed 3rd in the 2018-19 MEANT Math Olympiad conducted at UTD in the High School Division. He was also elected as the first Secretary of the Sophomore Class for BL's new house system.

**Elena V. '18**, a sophomore at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was selected to be in the Plano Youth Leadership Class 25.



**St. Mark Scholastic Book Fair**  
**November 10-15, 2019**  
**Lion's Lair Gym**  
**Open to the entire community.**

[Click here for Book Fair hours and complete details.](#)

Stock up on gifts and books for all ages. Proceeds benefit the St. Mark library.



**Interested in assisting with the upcoming middle school fall play, "The Queen is Not Amused?"**

The play is written by none other than Father Cliff, using characters created by William Shakespeare for "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

It will debut on campus on December 4, 2019.

Two students per high school were chosen for this honor. This program trains students on leadership techniques as well as prepares them to make a positive impact on the quality of life in their community's future. The group works with other local education and business leaders to develop individual leadership skills. Elena also had a painting featured in a *Flite for Freedom* exhibit at a local gallery. This collective of artists of all ages comes together to use their gifts to free the impoverished and enslaved.

Two St. Mark alums had their works featured in the 2019 *Esse*, the award-winning literary-art magazine of Ursuline Academy of Dallas: **Elena G. '15** contributed a story entitled, "Vizslat," and poems entitled, "American Spirit" and "Muse Moment." **Sarah H. '16** contributed a story entitled, "When the Doorbell Rang," and a digital photograph entitled, "Sense of the Ancient." **Sara H. '16**, **Joann N. '16**, **Vivian N. '17** and **Sona S. '17** served on the magazine's selection committee. [Click here](#) to access the online issue.

**Zosia S. '17** is a member of the Bishop Lynch High School Ambassadors Program, and was chosen by the school counselors as one of two sophomores to attend the HOBY North Texas Leadership Camp at UT Arlington.

The John Paul II High School Cross Country team captured another District title. Congratulations to the boys for back-to-back titles and runner-up titles for the girls. St. Mark alumni on the teams are: **Travis A. '16**, **Jack B. '17**, **Catherine B. '19**, **Mary Anne F. '18**, **Kevin P. '16**, **Katie S. '18**, **Zach V. '17** and **Brayden W. '18**.

**Tessa T. '17**, a junior at Bishop Lynch High School, competed in the State Fair of Texas Poultry show and won 2nd Place in Showmanship in the Senior Division and Reserve Grand Champion of Showmanship (2nd place over all competitors in the Clover, Junior and Intermediate Divisions). Contestants must learn a great deal of information about the variety and breed of their bird including care and feed, defects, disqualifications, diseases, show day prep, and breeds other than the one they are showing, and be prepared to answer questions from judges.

We can use help with the preparations. Please contact [patty.corsi@stmcs.net](mailto:patty.corsi@stmcs.net) if you are interested.

### Christmas Pageant:



Presented by the  
Preschool-  
5th grade  
students

Thursday, December 19, 2019  
6:30 PM in the church

### STAY CONNECTED

Keep us posted! As we receive alumni updates, we incorporate them into our social media posts, weekly school bulletins, and alumni communications. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments -- we'd love to hear from you! Need to update your contact information? Simply contact [Debbie Reed](#) with all of your updates.

### WAYS TO GIVE TO ST. MARK

St. Mark Catholic School appreciates your support. If you would like to make a donation of time, expertise, or financial support, please follow the links below.

\*Donate your time or expertise. Simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and let us know what you are interested in contributing to our school. Need ideas? Community members have provided special presentations to students on a variety of topics including military



**"ONCE A LION,  
ALWAYS A LION!"**



service, cell phone use, the Titanic, and the Holocaust. Parents and alumni with interesting careers have presented at the St. Mark Career Days, others have taught electives on subjects such as the stock market, and many have served as interviewers at the annual 8th grade interview practice sessions.

\*[Gap Fund](#) - This fund helps St. Mark bridge the gap between the tuition amount our families pay, and the actual cost to educate each student. For 2019-20, that cost is \$1,111 per student.

\*[Technology Fund](#) - This fund assists St. Mark with keeping current on the technology made available to our students.

\*[Other Monetary Donations](#) - Make a general donation, or designate funds towards a specific program such as Fine Arts, Athletics, or Robotics.

\*[Legacy Brick](#) - Commemorate your time as a LION. Buy a personalized brick for \$100 that will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School.

\*[Merchant Programs](#) - Raise funds for our school simply by linking your shopper card to St. Mark.

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