



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN November 22, 2019

Prayer for the 2019-20 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, Friday, November 22:

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

-12:00 NOON: Early Dismissal. The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM.

-10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Half days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Visit the location across the street from the school, mention St. Mark when you place your order, and a percentage will go to the Athletics Dept.

Monday, November 25-Friday, November 29:

-NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, December 2:

-School Resumes

-St. Mark Spirit Day! See page 27 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for guidelines.



A National School of
Excellence



Named 1 of the top 3
Catholic schools in the nation for
technology integration

MIDDLE SCHOOL
FALL PLAY

Wednesday, December 4:

-7:10 AM: Student Council Meeting

-Progress Reports (grades 1-8)

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Middle School Fall Play (details at right)

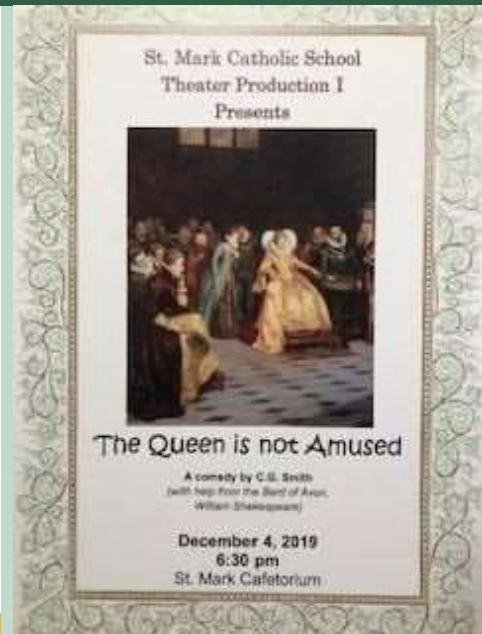
Friday, December 6:

-7:55 AM, Cross by Narthex: Community Prayer Walk

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

Saturday, December 7:

-Diocesan Speech Tournament



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families: As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holidays, I find myself (as I always do at this time of year) in a reflective

mood, looking back on what I am most grateful for -- my family, friends, pets, and the myriad other people and things that bring such blessings to my life. While the St. Mark community is always high on that list, it is tugging particularly hard at my heartstrings this year.

During my 5+ years as Principal, we've experienced so much together. In good times, we've laughed and celebrated. In challenging times, we've cried, consoled each other, and found the light at the end of the tunnel. We've continued to ensure that St. Mark provides a premier educational experience for our students. We've made wonderful enhancements to our campus. We've continued to honor our 37-year-old traditions. We've preserved our close family community. Through it all, we've worshiped and prayed together.

What a wonderful gift to know that I am part of a community where we all work together to accomplish whatever we set our sights on, and to overcome any

SAC MINUTES



[Click here](#) to view the minutes from the October 24, 2019 SAC meeting.

YEARBOOK ORDERS

The 2019-20 St. Mark yearbooks are on sale now! The yearbook is a wonderful keepsake that chronicles the entire school year and includes all students from Preschool through 8th grade. The cost is \$30 each. [Please click here](#) to purchase your yearbook by December 20 before the price goes up.

NOTE: 8th graders are provided with a complimentary yearbook, so

challenges we may face. It is rare to find such a community, where all members support one another and stand together in what we hold most dear, knowing that as long as we continue as a unit, there is nothing we can't do.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches and my emotions get the best of me (my eyes are welling up as I write this), please know how thankful I am to be a member of this special community, to be the Principal of this school, and to count each of you and your children among my blessings. You all inspire me, you constantly reaffirm my faith in the world, and you continue to make me a better leader. With tremendous gratitude for what we've already done together, I look forward with great anticipation to the wonderful things we will accomplish together this year, and in the many years that follow.

Wishing you a very blessed Thanksgiving,



Patricia Opon
Principal

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY PLANS

If you will be returning after December 2 from the Thanksgiving holidays, please be sure to email your child's teacher and [Mrs. O'Connor](#).

CATHOLIC MATH LEAGUE TEST DATES

Attention Catholic Math League Participants: Please mark your calendars. The remaining 2019-20 Catholic Math League testing dates are as follows: **December 4, February 5, and March 4**. All test dates fall on a **Wednesday**. On the test dates, qualified participants will enter through the Cafetorium between 6:45 and 6:55 AM. Testing starts at 7:00 AM. No students will be admitted after 7:00 AM. Only students taking the test

it is not necessary to purchase one for your 8th grade student.

Yearbook ads are available to non-school teams & activities:

If you would like your non-school team or organization (i.e. Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts/PSA sports teams, etc.) recognized in the yearbook, you may purchase an ad between now and November 22 by [clicking here](#). Pictures and ad copy are due December 13.

Ads options:

- \$75 for 1/4 page (3.25" x 4.5")
- \$100 for 1/2 page (6.75" x 4.5")
- \$150 for full page (6.75" x 9.25")

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM



Welcome to the St. Mark Community Prayer Team! It is our goal to bring the St. Mark community closer to Christ and each other. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved this school year. Even if you are unable to participate in person, please pray for St. Mark from wherever you are.

***Prayer Walks:** We will conduct Prayer Walks on the first Friday of each month and hope you can join us. The next one will take place December 6.

***Prayer Requests:** Everyone is welcome to place prayer requests in the box on the prayer table located

will be admitted. Thank you for your support. (NOTE: Students who qualified to participate have been notified.)

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!



SPREAD THE WORD!

Please help us get the word out in our community about the great things going on in our school by going to **Google** and **Facebook** to leave us a rating and review!

☆☆☆☆☆

Share why you and your children love being part of our school family to help future families find us online.

Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child?



2020-21 applications are open.
[Online applications are available here.](#)

Encourage prospective families to schedule 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!](#)

in the hallway between the Admin. offices and the Cafetorium. The intentions will be taken to Mass on Fridays as part of the offering.

***Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention:** In addition to your prayers for our St. Mark community, we hope you will also remember Pope Francis' monthly intentions:

November: Dialog and Reconciliation in the Near East - That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

To access the St. Mark Catholic School directory:

- *Login to the **FACTS Family Portal** (formerly known as RenWeb).
- *The school district code is STMCS-TX.
- *Click on "Directory" (left column under the school section).
- *There are options to sort/search by name, grade, or class.

**THANK YOU FROM
THE STAFF**

NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Congratulations to Ben P. who was chosen to participate in the DPL Varsity Football All Star Game! Come out and support the team at 12:00 NOON this Sunday at Bishop Lynch High School. Go Ben and go LIONS!



Track Coaches Needed: If you are interested in coaching DPL JV or Varsity Track in the spring, please contact Athletic Director [Marlene Ehring](#).

Shop the Lion's Den Spirit Store for all of your spirit wear needs! It is open every Friday morning that school is in session from 7:30- 8:15 AM in the Cafetorium. 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.



AUCTION & GALA



Get ready to celebrate our biggest fundraiser of the year, the "Boots & Ballgowns Auction & Gala," on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Southfork Ranch! This year's proceeds will



We are

very *thankful* for our fabulous 1st and 7th grade families for hosting this month's Teacher Luncheon. The theme was "Baked Potato Bar" with all the fixins' -- the perfect comfort food this time of year! And the special notes from parents were such a nice touch -- so heartwarming!



AROUND THE PARISH



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

HTS invites you to public mass. Each mass is followed by a reception hosted by the local Serran clubs where you can get to know the HTS seminarians.

Upcoming Mass Date: 12/8

Time: 9:15 AM

Location: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX



fund a **rosary garden in the school courtyard** and boost the **school technology fund**.

Because this is our only school-wide fundraiser, and because many hands make light work, we ask that everyone contribute towards its success. Please consider joining the host committee for the Auction & Gala. Whether you can give a little time or a lot, there is a place for you! In particular, we need everyone's assistance with sponsorships. If you have connections to local businesses or know of potential sponsors, please reach out to caseyhendrix@gmail.com.

We hope you will volunteer your time and talents, and equally as important, we hope you plan to attend the Auction & Gala. It's a wonderful community event, and one that truly benefits us all. Let's work together to make this year's event the best one ever!

SUPPER OF EXCELLENCE



The Van Horn family was one of the lucky winners of a "Supper of Excellence" at the 2019 Auction & Gala, and will

enjoy a "Texas BBQ Dinner" compliments of the staff this weekend! Thank you to our chefs, Beth Kyle, Cathy Pantuso, Carolyn Eisele, Ray Sedge and Marlene Ehring, for preparing this wonderful meal!

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Each year, HSA hosts a Christmas party for the faculty and staff on behalf of all school families. It is our opportunity to show our gratitude for all that they do and to celebrate the holiday season with them. **We need your help to make this a**

Mrs. Denvir invites all students and their families to attend the monthly French masses held at Our Lady of Cistercian Abbey. There is an opportunity to do the readings and to sample French snacks after each mass.

Upcoming Mass Date: 12/15
Time: 10:30 AM
Location: 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, TX

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



From December 6-8 and 12-14, come and see our own second grader, Jillian B., in the North Texas

Performing Arts Center production of *Elf Jr.* For details and ticket information, please [click here](#).



Chamberlain Performing Arts presents their annual production of the *Nutcracker* during Thanksgiving weekend. Our own fifth graders,

wonderful event! We are holding a raffle drawing at the party where they will have the chance to win prizes. We are also supplying desserts and candy. Please consider making a monetary donation, a prize donation, or providing candy or a dessert for the event. [Click here for the Sign-Up Genius](#). Let's help usher in the holiday season for our faculty and staff, and show them just how much we appreciate them!



Thank you to all of the students, parents, and staff who supported the Book Fair last week. Your purchases will make a wonderful and immediate impact within our school library!

And a huge THANK YOU, Ruby Librea and Theresa Meyers, for almost a DECADE of love, hard work, and dedication to the St. Mark Book Fair. Year after year, you've made our Book Fair a huge success and a "happy place" for our school. Because of you, countless books have been provided to our school library, a love of reading has been sparked in every student, and about a million lollipops have funded the HSA. Our school truly appreciates all that you do. God bless both of you!



Carter D. and Catalina M., and second graders, Valencia M. and Sophia D., are among the cast members. Please [click here](#) for details and ticket information.

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 !

1st Grade "The Giving Tree" Play



ECE Thanksgiving Feast:



4th Grade Thanksgiving Parade:



**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
REMEMBER THAT**

**YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING MUST BE
CURRENT.**



We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement! This is a great opportunity to be in

the classroom and teach our kids some basic business and economic principles. JA classes are taught once a week for five weeks for a total of five classes. Each class is 30 minutes long. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. Training will be held on January 29 at 2:30 PM in the Cafetorium. [Please click here](#) to sign up. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email [Polly Chesler](mailto:Polly.Chesler).

2019-20 HSA Volunteer Opportunities: The Home & School Association cannot be successful without amazing volunteers to help in our school. There are many ways you can share your time and talents. Below are the links to the 2019-20 HSA Committee and Room Parent Sign-Up Geniuses. All positions are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please consider lending your time and talents to these positions:

[Committee Sign-Up](#)
[Room Parent Sign-Up](#)

Preschool-2nd Grade Classroom Helpers

Needed: Please sign-up to help our teachers in the classroom with reading, paper pulling, and craft prep. All of the teachers have Sign-Up Geniuses with specific classroom needs. [Click here](#) to access the Sign-Up Geniuses for each teacher on the school website. Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#) or [Brandy Pazora](#).

ECE Front Desk Volunteers Needed: Early Childhood needs volunteers to man the front desk each day, answering the door, the phone, and doing occasional craft prep. Volunteers may bring a book/work, and the desktop computer is available if needed. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM-2:00 PM, and Friday, 9:30AM-2:00 PM. Any amount of time is appreciated. Please [click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius, and be sure to include the hours you can volunteer in the "comments." Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#)



6th Grade STEM Day:



4th Grade Marble Runs:



3rd Grade Saint Reports:



PK3 "Fall" STEM:

Library volunteers are needed for Kindergarten-8th Grade! Please visit the Library [Sign-Up Genius](#) to see the schedule of available times. There are plenty of opportunities!



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 contact the [Helping Hands Committee](#).



Keep saving those Box Tops and submitting online! Download the Box Tops app and scan your receipt with eligible products within 14 days of purchase. For physical Box Tops please carefully cut out unexpired

Box Tops from participating brands; place in a Ziploc (which conveniently has box tops!) or envelope; clearly write your child's grade/teacher on it; and turn them in to your child's teacher by **November 21**. Each Box Top submitted earns \$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here for details](#). For more information, contact [Melissa King](#) or [Sharon Mattis](#).



Shop at Kroger and Earn Money for St. Mark: Enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program and a percentage of your purchases will go to the St. Mark Home & School

Association. [Click here](#) for complete instructions. Kroger cards must be re-linked to St. Mark every 12 months.



Library Volunteer:



FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF



Congratulations to St. Mark Catholic School's 2019-20 "Teacher of the Year," Transitional Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kristen Young! Mrs. Young was nominated for this honor by her peers who cited many of her admirable qualities -- her kindness, patience, willingness to help others, her mastery of differentiation in the classroom, and her ability to make learning fun -- just to name a few! She will now be considered for the diocesan "Educator of the Year" award next April. We are so proud of this most-deserving educator!



Did you know? 4th grade teacher, Ms. Eisele, graduated with a B.A. degree in Psychology & Special Program in Elementary Education from Lycoming College and earned a Masters degree in Advanced Literacy from Concordia University. She has a Shih Tzu named Harry, enjoys cooking, reading, playing piano, decorating, planting flowers, nature walks, traveling, singing and dancing, as well as spending time with family and friends. Ms. Eisele volunteers as a Eucharistic Minister, a CRHP monthly meeting coordinator, a Holy Trinity Seminary auxiliary member, and gives her time at the Plano Overnight Warming Station for the Homeless.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



8th graders are invited to be a "**Friar For a Day**" on Tuesday, December 3 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Bus service is available. Please pre-register on [Ravenna](#) or RSVP to admissions@bishoplynch.org.

BL Open House will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 PM at Bishop Lynch High School and is open to prospective students of all ages. The opening ceremony will take place in the Competition Gym, followed

by open classrooms, information sessions, club fair, and more. Every faculty member, along with all coaches and many students, will be on campus to answer questions and provide more information about Bishop Lynch. [Click here](#) for complete details.

QUICK LINKS

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

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