



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN December 13, 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, December 13:

-4th grade received the Vocations Chalice at the All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

### Monday, December 16-Wednesday, December 18:

-Midterm Exams (grades 6-8; details below)

### Tuesday, December 17:

-2:30 PM, Cafetorium: Band Concert

### Thursday, December 19:

-"Holiday Shirt" Dress Down Day (details below)

-6:30 PM, Church: Christmas Pageant (grades PK-5; details below)

### Friday, December 20:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass presented by 4th grade. All are welcome.

-Class Christmas Parties; lunch will be served to all students



A National School of Excellence



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

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

-12:00 PM Early Dismissal

-The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM. ASP students will have eaten lunch at the Class Christmas Parties, but if your child requires additional food, please send a lunch to be eaten during ASP.

-10:00 AM-11:00 PM: 1/2 days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Visit the location across the street from the school, mention St. Mark during the order process, and a percentage of the proceeds benefits the Athletics Department!

**Monday, December 23-January 6:**

-NO SCHOOL: Christmas Holiday & Staff Development Day

**Tuesday, January 7:**

-School resumes

**PRE-ORDER YOUR "FAMILY DAY" LUNCH NOW FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**



Catholic Schools Week takes place January 27-31, 2020, with "Family Day" falling on Tuesday, January 28.

Back by popular demand, the In-N-Out Burger food truck will be on campus serving freshly made burgers to the community on Family Day ... **BUT, IN ORDER TO GET ONE, YOU MUST PLACE A PRE-ORDER BY JANUARY 15, 2020!** Individual lunches are \$6.00 each, and In-N-Out will donate 75% back to the school. It's a win-win -- you get a delicious lunch ready for pick-up on campus, and the school gets money back!

[Please click here for complete details and the online order form.](#) Once you place your order, keep a printed or digital copy of your payment confirmation. You will need to present it on Family Day.



The faculty and staff send our heartfelt thanks to our school families and the Home & School Association for the Christmas Celebration on Wednesday evening. We thoroughly enjoyed the food, desserts and drinks, and of course, all of the special gifts. Words cannot express how much we love our school families, and we can't thank you enough for your donations of time, talent, and treasure towards this event. It allows us a time to come together outside of school to celebrate the season, and is even more special because it is made possible by you, our wonderful families.

**WATCH D.O.G.S.**



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

## HOLIDAY SHIRT DRESS DOWN DAY



On Thursday, December 19, students may pay \$2.00 and wear a holiday shirt to school with jeans/casual pants and closed toe shoes. Shirts must be free of inappropriate slogans or graphics.

Proceeds benefit Student Council. Please

see page 27 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for complete guidelines.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



PK-5th grade parents: The invitation to the annual Christmas Pageant on Thursday, December 19, as well as details about the evening, were sent to families via FACTS Family Portal (formerly Renweb). If you missed it, [please click here](#).

## SAFETY UPDATE



As part of the campus safety program, the school conducts regular emergency drills. An "intruder" drill was held on Thursday, December 12. Students and staff quickly and efficiently locked down classrooms and offices without incident.

## UTD ENGINEERING WEEK

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDTERM EXAM SCHEDULE

12/16: Science & English

12/17: Literature & Math

12/18: Religion & Social Studies

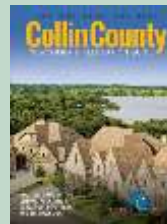
Please note: There is no longer a Spanish midterm exam.

## ST. MARK IN THE NEWS

The logo for Make-A-Wish, featuring the text "Make-A-Wish" in a blue, sans-serif font with a stylized "A" that incorporates a wish icon.

Thanks to Make-A-Wish North Texas for this [wonderful](#)

[video](#) highlighting our students' service to their organization.



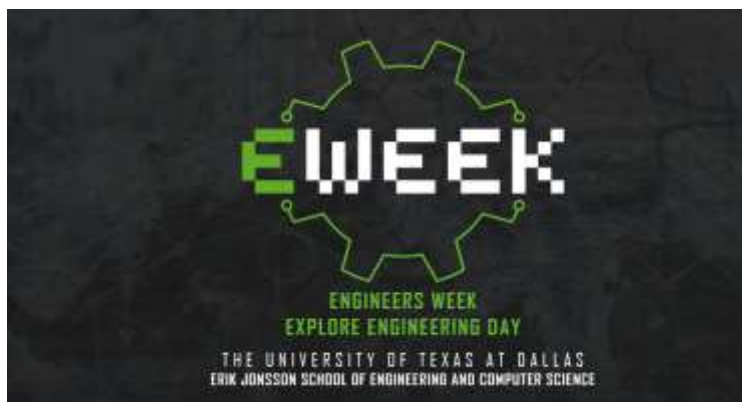
Check out our latest promotion on pages 41, 43 and 44 in the [Collin County Newcomer and Relocation Guide](#).



St. Mark is also featured in the [Dallas Child and Collin Child magazines'](#) [December issues](#)

[in the special "STEM" section](#).

Magazines are on newsstands now.



**The University of Texas at Dallas  
Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer  
Science Celebrates 2020 National Engineers Week**

**Explore Engineering Day:** Saturday, February 15, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, at the Engineering Complex and Visitors Center (ECNS, ECSS, ECSW and VCB) on the UT Dallas Main Campus, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080

The public is invited to join the Jonsson School for Explore Engineering Day 2020. The event features activities for all ages, including hands-on activities for K-12 students, educational demonstrations, workshops, a Beyblades competition, and fascinating tech talks by faculty and leaders from local engineering companies.

[Click here](#) for registration. Event questions? Please email [ExploreEngineering@utdallas.edu](mailto:ExploreEngineering@utdallas.edu).

## USED UNIFORM & FIRST COMMUNION ATTIRE DONATIONS

HSA will host its semi-annual "Used Uniform Sale" during Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. **New this year:** We hope to include First Communion dresses and suits.

**\*We are now accepting gently worn school uniforms, as well as First Communion dresses, boys' suits, and accessories through January 24 in the school office. If you would like to donate, please follow these guidelines:**

## WORK OF HEART



Has a faculty or staff

member gone "above and beyond" for your student or family? Nominate him or her for a "Work of Heart Award" through The Catholic Foundation. Simply complete their [online nomination form](#). Winners receive a certificate of recognition, a check from The Catholic Foundation, and special recognition at All School Mass.

## NEW -- YEARBOOK BUSINESS ADS

**New this year -- advertise your business in the 2019-20 St. Mark Yearbook!** Show your support for the community by purchasing a business ad in the yearbook:

Ads options & prices:

- \$75 for 1/4 page (3.25" x 4.5")
- \$130 for 1/2 page (6.75" x 4.5")
- \$200 for full page (6.75" x 9.25")

Place your order by December 20 and submit ad materials by January 31. For complete details, [please click here](#).

We'd love to showcase your ad!

## YEARBOOK ORDERS

- School uniforms must be in new or gently worn condition, and must be laundered.
- First Communion dresses and suits must be in new or gently worn condition, dry cleaned, hung on a hangar, and covered with a plastic "dry cleaning" bag.
- First Communion accessories (veils, jewelry, belts, shoes, etc.) must be in new or gently used condition.
- We cannot accept socks or tights unless they are brand new.

Thank you for sharing these items with other school families.

## PARISHIONER TUITION DISCOUNT REMINDER



In order to qualify for the parishioner tuition discount, the annual minimum parish donation of \$800 must be paid by December 31, 2019. Tuition Rate Change Notices for families that

did not meet the \$800 minimum will be sent out in late January 2020. If you have questions about the status of your donations, please contact Nadya Collard in the parish office now to avoid the year end rush: (972) 423-5600, ext. 258, or [ncollard@stmarkplano.org](mailto:ncollard@stmarkplano.org).

### Payment options:

- \* Check (payable to "St. Mark Catholic Church") may be placed in the weekly collection basket or dropped off at the parish office.
- \* Electronic payment accessible by [clicking here](#). Please note that recurring payments can also be setup using this link.
- \* Please do NOT send your payment to the school office or use the school's electronic payment site.

### Reminders from the parish office:

- \* The parish office is not notified when an electronic payment is declined or stopped (i.e. credit card expiration date as in the case of recurring payments). It is the responsibility of the family to monitor their bank and credit card statements to ensure the payments are successful.

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

## LEGACY BRICKS



A St. Mark Legacy Brick makes a great

holiday gift! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. All community members including students, families, alumni, parishioners and parish ministries/organizations are encouraged to purchase a custom designed brick engraved with a family name, ministry, or organization, child's name, loved one's name, etc. Logos are available for all kinds of interests such as religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy/Girl Scouts, band, choir and more. These custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to the school. Bricks are \$100 each. [To place your order, click here](#).

NOTE: Brick orders are taken year-round. One annual order is sent to

\* If you are putting cash in the collection baskets, you must use your parishioner envelopes. It is the only way to ensure the donation will be credited back to your name.

## FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Financial aid applications are now open. We highly recommend that families apply now before the "1st priority period" deadline of January 5, 2020. [Please click here](#) for more details about financial aid.

## END-OF-YEAR GIVING

If you are considering an additional end-of-year donation, St. Mark Catholic Church and School are non-profit organizations that allow you to make tax deductible donations. As the end of the year approaches and you review your tax-deductible donations, please consider giving to your own St. Mark community.

Please also check with your company to determine if matching funds are available. Some of the companies that provide corporate matching include 3M, AIG, Abbott, Bank of America, Boeing, Chevron, Cisco, Conoco Phillips, Deloitte, Gates Foundation, Intel, Lockheed Martin, Merck, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Raytheon, State Farm, Texas Instruments, Verizon, and Walmart. Another good resource for learning if your company has a matching gift program is [www.matchinggifts.com/smu](http://www.matchinggifts.com/smu).

If you would like to make a monetary donation to St. Mark Catholic School (including a particular department or program such as Athletics or Fine Arts), please [click here](#). Enter the amount under "Miscellaneous," and specify the program in the "comments" section. Donations may also be made directly to the St. Mark Gap Fund and the Technology Fund.

To make a donation to St. Mark Catholic Church, [click here](#). As a reminder, donations to the school do not count towards the required \$800 parish donation.

the manufacturer over the summer and bricks are generally installed in early fall.

## 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 January 10.

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

December: The Future of the Very Young - That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

We are truly appreciative of your support.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS CAN PAY OFF AGAIN

Did you know that some companies donate to nonprofit organizations based on the number of hours their employees volunteer with that organization? For example, Texas Instruments, Southwest Airlines, and Verizon all offer programs where monetary donations, airlines ticket vouchers, etc. are awarded to nonprofits for volunteer hours. Be sure to check your company's policies. We all volunteer at St. Mark in some capacity. Make those hours pay off again by requesting a matching donation to St. Mark!

## CHRISTMAS VACATION

If you are leaving early for the Christmas break or returning late, please email both your child's teacher and [Mrs. O'Connor](#).

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As we transition into the winter months and the possibility of inclement weather, please be reminded that school closing or delayed opening will be announced on television channels NBC (5) AND ABC (8), either the evening before or between the hours of 6:00 and 7:00 AM. E-mail notification will be made via FACTS Family Portal (formerly Renweb) along with a posting on the school website. See page 23 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for the full policy.

## COLD WEATHER ATTIRE

As temperatures are dropping, please ensure that your child is wearing a coat and appropriate attire for the

## AROUND THE DIOCESE



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:** 1/26/20  
**Time:** 9:15 AM  
**Location:** 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX



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:** 12/15/19  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Location:** 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, TX

## PAW PRIDE!

colder weather. Recess/PE will continue to be held outside until wind chill temperatures drop below 32 degrees. For your reference, uniform guidelines begin on page 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#), and items approved for cold weather attire are included on the "Uniform Guideline" documents on the [school website](#).

## 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: **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 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.



The Speech Team impressed at the Diocese of Dallas Middle School Diocesan Speech Tournament held at John Paul II High School last weekend. Nicholas K. and Isaiah P. went to the Semi-Finals in Duet Acting. Sophia L. placed 1st in Prose. Casie P. placed 2nd and Alina S. placed 4th in Humorous Interpretation. Diya C. and Alina S. placed 2nd in Duet Acting. Vincent O. placed 3rd in Dramatic Interpretation. Overall, St. Mark placed 3rd in the tournament! GO LIONS!

## 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 !

**Prayer Walk:**



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.](#)



**2020 Open Houses:**

January 28 - 9:00 AM  
February 4 - 6:00 PM  
March 24 - 8:00 AM  
April 21 - 5:30 PM (PK/Kindergarten)

Pre-registration is available online at [www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours](http://www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours).

Encourage prospective families to schedule a private tour or register for Open House. 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!](#)

## NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



[Ehring.](#)

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

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](http://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.



**Speaking Engagement:**



**Staff Wacky Tacky Christmas Day & Party:**



**Catholic Charities Volunteers:**

## 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 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](mailto: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!

## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Polar Express/Grinchmas:



Pajama Day:



New Lion:



Hour of Code:



JPII Visits Middle School:



Gardening with Kindergarten:



Angel Tree Chores:



**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](#).

**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](#)

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#### **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](#).

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**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](#)

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**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!

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#### **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](#).

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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. 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 instructions. Be sure to re-link every 12 months.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF



**Did you know?** Cafeteria Manager, Mrs. Linda Gaines, was born in Dallas and has lived here ever since. She has two children and two grandsons. She graduated from Nimitz High School and has her Food Service Certificate. Mrs. Gaines has worked at St. Mark for 17 years and enjoys her job and

the ladies she works with.

## QUICK LINKS

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

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on your social media!

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