



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Alumni Families:

There is never a dull moment on our campus! With an eye towards always making tomorrow better than today, St. Mark Catholic School continues to innovate and update.

Take, for example, technology integration. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, our students will be exposed to virtual reality using 96 headsets that will be used to let students explore the world at a whole new level of "reality." Coding is also being added to the Preschool-2nd grade curriculum using a variety of age-appropriate materials.

Our facilities are getting a major face lift as well. In addition to new carpet and paint (including color accent walls in the classrooms) and a few other exterior improvements, plans are in the works for a covered walkway connecting the main school building with the Early Childhood Education building providing our littlest students protection against the elements.

A very special thank you to the Templeton family for their generous donation which makes these improvements, as well as numerous new educational support materials, possible.

Auction proceeds are bringing a new faculty restroom upstairs in Middle School so those teachers will have a dedicated restroom of their own. Also, thanks to the Auction, new playground



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](#)

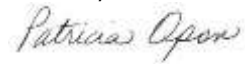
Follow us and stay connected!

equipment will be added, the library renovation will be completed, and new wood flooring has already been installed throughout the school.

Our school garden project is expanding as we speak, and an outdoor classroom environment is also in the works. Our own Coach Hicks (woodworker extraordinaire!) is lending his talents to this project, and has also created light tables for the Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms. These tables provide students with a unique and engaging way to interact with a whole host of curriculum materials.

Our last day of school is May 31, so please feel to drop by between now and then and check out our progress -- we'd love to see you!

Sincerely,



Patricia Opon, Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

P.S. Don't see your recent accomplishment mentioned below? Please send it to us at debbie.reed@stmcs.net. We'll include it in the next alumni newsletter.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Megan M. '07 is a graduate of Ursuline Academy of Dallas, Vanderbilt University, and is in her fourth year as a PhD student at Duke University. She just had her first paper published in the American Association for Cancer Research and was recognized by Duke University's Center for Global Women's Health Technologies. Learn more about her work on YouTube:



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.

HELP CELEBRATE FATHER CLIFF'S LAST SCHOOL MASS ON MAY 31



Since 2005, Father Clifford Smith has been the Pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church and School, and many of your families attended the school under his leadership. In June of this year, Father Cliff will retire.

On Friday, May 31 at 8:30 AM in the church, Father Cliff will celebrate his last All School Mass. We are planning a special send-off and gift presentation. All alumni families are invited to attend.

Please watch your email for a formal invitation.

ST. MARK IN THE NEWS



People of GWHT: Megan Madonna

Two alumni designed Mother's Day cards that were featured for sale on the Catholic Charities of Dallas website. **Kevin N. '16**, a junior at Bishop Lynch High School, and **Maddie M. '18**, a freshman at John Paul II High School, both participated in the Catholic Charities of Dallas Mother's Day Card Art Contest and had their designs chosen for the site.



Three alumni were elected as 2019-20 Junior Class Officers at John Paul II High School: **Hannah B. '17**-Treasurer; **Daniela B. '17**-Vice President; and **Zach V. '17**-Secretary.

Julianna S. '16 was elected Student Council Secretary and **Rachel D. '16** was elected as a Student Council Representative for 2019-20 at John Paul II High School.

Athena B. '15, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, is one of 24 students who will represent



The Make-A-Wish send-off event held on campus March 7 was covered by CBS DFW/Channel 11. In case you missed it, [you can see the broadcast here](#).

[Bubblelife](#) also ran an article about the event.



The Texas Catholic featured Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sharon Thompson, in the [May 10 issue](#). She was honored at the HALO Initiative "Educator of the Year" Awards.



FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY

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

Trey T. '13 enjoyed interacting with his teachers and the lasting friendships he made while at St. Mark.

Texas at this year's Youth in Government Conference on National Affairs (CONA).

Chelsea A. '16 and **Julia R. '16** are members of the Bishop Lynch High School Choir that appeared on Channel 8's *Daybreak* program, performing in recognition of the National Day of Prayer. [Check out their appearance on Facebook](#). They also recently sang at the Angels of Charity Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Dallas.

The *Jesuit Roundup* student newspaper was recently recognized by *The Dallas Morning News* as a runner-up for Best Website in their annual high school journalism competition. **Mark M. '18** serves as an Associate Editor and **Ethan J. '15** serves as a Writer.

Aenghus D. '17 was inducted into the National Honor Society at The Highlands School.

At the recent Texas State Junior Classical League (Latin) competition in Austin, **Aenghus D. '17**, a sophomore at The Highlands School, placed 9th in Roman History and **Jake R. '18**, a freshman at John Paul II High School, placed 4th in Monochromatic Drawing. Both qualified for the National JCL competition in Fargo, ND this summer.

Jalen L. '16, a junior at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, participated in the 55th Annual Jesuit-Sheaner Relays, one of the most prestigious track & field meets in the nation, attracting talent from all over the metroplex including nationally-ranked runners. Jalen placed 11th in the 110m Hurdles, and 10th in the 300m Hurdles.

The following students represented Bishop Lynch High School at the 2019-20 Texas Association of Parochial and Private Schools (TAPPS) Academic Competition: **Kevin N. '16** (On-site Drawing), **Mai-Vi O. '17** (Duet), **Zosia S. '17** (Prose Interpretation), **Alonso T. '18** (TAPPS Math), **Charlie S. '16** (Original Oratory), **Carissa T. '16** (Spelling, Advanced Math), **Sharon V. '16** (Spanish). Alonso placed 4th in Mathematics.

Isabella F. '15 was elected Prom Queen and **Christian L. '15** was elected Prom King at John Paul II High School.

LIONS MENTOR LIONS

Matthew M. '16, **Julianna S. '16**, **Lindsey G. '16** and **Allison G. '18**, all current John Paul II High School students, served as the Co-Coordinator of the 4th annual St. Mark STEM Fair.

Maverick O. '15 represented Plano ISD Academy High School and **Adam M. '10** represented IBM by hosting interactive booths at the event.

Check out the YouTube video produced by John Paul II High School highlighting St. Mark alumni and their ongoing support of the STEM Fair:



St Mark STEM Fair

Alejandro C. '15, **Nuro T. '15**, **Ashley B. '15**, **Sammie I. '16**, **Isa F. '15**, and **Kyanna I. '16** were among 26 students from John Paul II High School who served as judges at the 2019 St. Mark Science Fair.

AROUND CAMPUS

HALO INITIATIVE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sharon Thompson, was honored as St. Mark's Teacher of the Year at this annual banquet. She is pictured here with Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly and Superintendent Dr. Matthew Vereecke.

Charlie S. '16, a junior at Bishop Lynch High School, was named Operations Coordinator for their first ever House Council.

Jordan V. '15 is a member of the Ursuline Academy of Dallas/Jesuit Rangerettes drill team that competed in the Showtime Nationals and won National Grand Champion Officers -Large Team, Team Grand Champions for Large Team in Jazz, Pom, Prop, and received Second Place for Military. Jordan also received the "Most Improved" Award at the annual Rangerettes Banquet.

Matthew M. '16, a junior at John Paul II High School, was named "Cardinal of the Week" for the week of April 8 for Track & Field.

Worth G. '15 was voted 2019 Prom King at Bishop Lynch High School. **Izzy C. '15** was elected to the Prom Court.

Nick L. '15, a senior at John Paul II High School, is a member of the Varsity Tennis team and Ambassador Club, was inducted into the National Science Honor Society, and is the former President of the Young Men's Service League. He will be attending Texas Tech University as a Pre-Med major and was awarded the Presidential Scholarship for academic excellence.

C.J. W. '18, a freshman at Plano Academy High School, served as "Honorary Page for the Day" in Austin for Senator Angela Paxton. He also won "Best Narrative Film" at the 2nd Annual Titan Film Festival.



WORK OF HEART AWARD

5th grade teacher, **Mrs. Cindy Tronzano**, was recently recognized with a Work of Heart Award by The Catholic Foundation for "going above and beyond" for Catholic education. 52 faculty/staff members have received this award since its inception in 2005.



ACADEMICS

Olivia S. '17, a sophomore on the Varsity Tennis team, represented John Paul II High School at the TAPPS State Tennis Tournament.

Sarah H. '16, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was recently selected by *The Dallas Morning News* as one of three high school interns chosen from applicants throughout the Dallas metroplex. Sarah will work with *News* reporters and editors on a variety of assignments this summer. She was also inducted into Quill and Scroll, an international journalism honor society.

Michael H. '03, a graduate of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, Fordham University (Bachelor's degree), and Oklahoma State University (Master's degree), lives in Tulsa, OK and is the Program Director for the Tulsa Debate League. He oversees 20 debate programs across the Tulsa area. He is also the primary speech and debate coach at Will Rogers Junior and Senior High Schools. He recently made a TEDx presentation entitled, "The Power of Debate: Supercharging Education," which can be viewed on YouTube.



The Power of Debate: Supercharging Education |
Mike Haskins | TEDxUTulsa

Shelby Van H. '15 and **Joann N. '16** represented Ursuline Academy of Dallas at the 55th Texas French Symposium at Plano East High School. The competition included more than 700 students from 35 schools. Shelby won 4th place, Video Director, and Joann won 4th place in Poetry Level 3.

*43% of St. Mark middle school students and 21% of 3rd-5th grade students qualified for **DECATS**, the highly competitive diocesan gifted/talented summer program.

*42% of 4th-6th graders and 39% of 7th graders qualified for **Duke University's Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)**. In addition, St. Mark had three students who chose to take the above-level SAT test for the 2019 Duke TIP 7th Grade Talent Search and achieved State recognition.

*The St. Mark **Quiz Bowl** team qualified to compete at Nationals in Chicago.

***Spelling Bee**: 8th grader, Theresa T., placed 6th overall at the Golden Chick Dallas Regional Spelling Bee and advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. for the second consecutive year.

*One-third of St. Mark participants placed in the **Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA)** academic meet and twelve students advanced to State in various categories. Six placed in the top 10 at State.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

***SVDP Food Drive**: In conjunction with the Archangels of Catholic Charities, St. Mark students collected food for Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul in February. This collection resulted in 854

Alumni **Harrison K. '17** and **Jake R. '18**, along with other members of St. Mark Boy Scout Troop 285, assisted **Luke H. '18** with his Eagle Scout project, painting and erecting a new sign for Hogge-Herring Cemetery in Murphy.



Chelsea A. '16, a junior at Bishop Lynch High School, is a member of the Children's Choir of Collin County Youth Chorus. She was chosen as one of only two recipients of a Merit Scholarship by the Board of Directors and the Artistic Director. This scholarship provides full tuition for the next Chorus year. Recipients are chosen based on their exemplary character, leadership, involvement, and music excellence.

Hannah F. '15, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, took 2nd Place in the High Jump at the TAPPS State Track & Field Meet.

Alonso T. '18, a freshman at Bishop Lynch High School, was nominated as Captain for the 2020 Bishop Lynch Robotics Team. He also served as Design Captain at the 2019 Robotics State competition and was the only freshman on BL's State team.

YOU'RE INVITED

pounds of food equal to 711 meals for hungry families.

***Diaper Drive:** The school sponsored a diaper drive among both school and parish families throughout the month of March, which resulted in a four month's supply delivered to White Rose and Birth Choice pregnancy crisis centers.



***Service of Choice:** Middle school teamed up with elementary and Early Childhood students to design their own service projects in April. Beneficiaries included Make-A-Wish, Children's Advocacy Center, St. Michael Society military support group, and blessing bags for the homeless.

***Campus Clean-Up:** This month, students will help care for our school, church and parish.

FINE ARTS

Band Awards:

The St. Mark Band won 1st Place in the Youth Marching Division at the Richardson Christmas Parade earlier this school year. In addition, CJ B. was awarded "Outstanding Beginner Percussionist," Karson A. was awarded "Outstanding Honor Band Percussionist," and Jonas A. was awarded "Outstanding Brass" by Music Learning Band. MLB teaches band programs at 44 area schools and award recipients are chosen from this entire student population.

Preschool Recital:

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!



***RESCHEDULED:** 24th Annual [Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic](#), Friday, September 13, 1:00 PM shotgun start, The Courses at Watters Creek. 4 person scramble.

Ticket price includes dinner, beverage tickets, gift bag, door prizes and a raffle. Proceeds benefit the St. Mark Athletics program. Registration and sponsorships are available now -- [click here](#). For more information, or to volunteer, contact Athletic Director, [Marlene Ehring](#).

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 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 Pinterest projects, 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,



4th Grade Play:



Middle School Spring Musical:



Band Concert:



ATHLETICS

Several St. Mark Track Team members placed in the top 20 in their events at the recent DPL City Track Meets, and a number of school records were broken.

SCHOOL GARDEN

School gardening projects abound this spring! Preschool students helped plant vegetables and some spring color, and also added "alphabet" pots along the fence that borders the St. Mark field.

and the actual cost to educate each student. For 2018-19, that cost is \$1,195 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.

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



[Forward To A Friend](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



STEM FAIR

The 4th annual St. Mark STEM Fair was a huge success. A NASA Astronaut talked to us about space tourism. 88 booths sponsored by area corporations, non-profits, universities and other organizations presented hands-on, interactive activities for students and adults alike. Robots, a hot air balloon, virtual reality, honey bees, DNA, cyber security, and CPR were just a few of the topics we learned about.



SACRAMENTS

8th Grade Confirmation:



2nd Grade First Communion:



St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610

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

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