



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019-20

 **ST. MARK**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## BOOTS and Ballgowns

February 29, 2020

Southfork Ranch  
Oil Barron's Ballroom  
6pm-Midnight

BUY TICKETS NOW  
<https://one.bidpal.net/stmarkauction2020>

*Let's dine and dance  
like the Ewings!  
LIVE MUSIC  
Plated Dinner  
Large Casino, Photo Booth and much more!*

[Click here to purchase your tickets or to become a sponsor!](#)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Alumni Families:



January was a very busy month at St. Mark Catholic School. We celebrated another Catholic Schools Week with our entire community by enjoying many CSW traditions, and we even added a few new ones! Check them out on our [Facebook page](#). I bet the photos bring back a flood of great memories!

As part of CSW, students walked laps in P.E. classes and collected pledges for the annual Laps for Leukemia/Lymphoma



fundraiser. **We've had amazing participation by our alumni families this year! If you haven't had a chance to make your donation, there is still time. Online donations can be made [here](#) and are due by Friday, February 14.** We appreciate your continued support of this tradition.



We are also proud to share the news that St. Mark completed a very

successful accreditation process. This exercise takes place every seven years through the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department. Preparation was a yearlong process for the faculty and staff, and culminated in a TCCBED accreditation team visit that lasted three-and-a-half days. The accreditation team examined every aspect of the school including policies, procedures, curriculum, and facilities. The end result confirmed that St. Mark continues to be on the right track. **Not only did we pass with flying colors, but we quite literally set a new bar against which Catholic schools in Texas will be evaluated going forward.**

And announcing something new, just for our alumni -- check out "**Remember When**" on our social media. Be sure to follow us and see photos and memories from years gone by. You may see someone you know, or even yourself from time to time! Feel free to leave your comments and share your own photos with us. It's so much fun to celebrate the wonderful times that our students and families have shared over the decades. See below for our latest post.

Drop by and visit when you get the chance. You all continue to play a large role in the success of St. Mark Catholic School and we hope to share it with you as often as possible!

Sincerely,

## A National School of Excellence



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

## ST. MARK IN THE NEWS



\*Check out the [wonderful article](#) featured in the November 10, 2019 issue of *The Texas Catholic* about St. Mark's annual "Blankets of Love" project benefiting the VA Hospital.

\*Special thanks to Make-A-Wish North Texas for this [video](#) highlighting our students' service to their organization.

\*Recent issues of *Catholic Neighbors* magazine have featured profiles on two St. Mark families, the Delaneys and the Herndons. Learn more about them below:

*Patricia Opon*

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

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

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Antonio M. '16**, a senior at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, earned a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT college admissions exam, placing him within the top one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT. Among seniors in the class of 2020, roughly 2,800 out of 2.1 million students earned a composite score of 36.

**Charlie S. '16** and **Carissa T. '16** were named AP Scholars With Distinction (3.5 average on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams), and **Annabella M. '16** was named an AP Scholar (scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams). All are students at Bishop Lynch High School.

**Kevin P. '16**, a senior at John Paul II High School, is a recipient of the Bishop Grahmann Award. This award honors Bishop Charles Grahmann, D.D., in recognition of his support of JP II, for students who exemplify the qualities of the school mission statement through their academic performance, faith journey, citizenship, and leadership. He also signed a National Letter of Intent to play Men's Soccer for The University of Dallas. Kevin is a four year Varsity player for the JP II Soccer team and the Captain of this year's team.



[December 2019 - Delaneys](#)  
[January 2020 - Herndons](#)

## REMEMBER WHEN

Anyone recognize these faces? This photo was taken in the school library during Catholic Schools Week 1985. The theme was "Our Future is Under the Rainbow." Post your comments on the school's [Facebook page!](#)



## LIFETIME LIONS



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 high school service hours. [Click here to register.](#)

**Megan W. '16**, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, signed a National Letter of Intent to play Women's Soccer for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A dual-athlete, she received TAPPS 2nd Team All-District and Academic All-State for Softball in 2019 and Presidents' Cup Champion and WAGS All-Tournament Team for soccer in 2018. She also received 2nd Team All-District for this season.

**Braxton B. '16**, a senior at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play Baseball at Regis University. He was selected for All-District 2nd Team last season and is entering his third season on the Varsity roster. In 2019, he led the team with 37 hits and finished the season second on the team with a .322 batting average.

**Kennedy G. '17, Lainey M. '17, Zosia S. '17, and Tessa T. '17** were recently inducted into the Bishop Lynch High School National Honor Society.

The following Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas students were named to the Fall Semester Honor Rolls: Principal's Honor Roll: **Jacob A. '16, Matthew N. '16, Matt N. '16, Cal T. '16**; Honor Roll: **Braxton B. '16, Sam D. '16, Joseph F. '16, Antonio M. '16, John N. '16, Harrison K. '17, Emilio R. '17, Luis R. '17, Luke H. '18, Jack P. '18, Thomas W. '18, Andrew A. '19, Charlie H. '18, Jon N. '18, Louis T. '18**



**Alonso T. '18**, a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School, took 1st Place in the school's annual Science Fair with his project *B.L.I.S.S. - Bishop Lynch Intelligent Security System*. He now has the opportunity to participate in the Dallas Regional Science Fair.

**Matthew M. '16 and Blake J. '18** played on the John Paul II High School Varsity Football team that made it all the way to the TAPPS State Championship game for the first time in history.

**Vivian N. '17**, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, had her artwork chosen to be exhibited at the second annual Dallas Young Artists Exhibition at the Blue Print Gallery.

## LIONS MENTOR LIONS



**Julianna S. '16, Kevin P. '16 and Hannah B. '17** recently paid a visit to campus with John Paul II High School and brought cookies to our middle school students.

## FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY



When

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

**Alex M. '18** recalls great times on the Robotics team, as well as participating in St. Mark's first Make-A-Wish endeavor.

We're proud to say that these traditions endure! Check out the latest on the Robotics Team below. Our middle school students continue to raise money for Make-A-Wish. 2020-

**Kate S. '08**, a graduate of and current math teacher at Bishop Lynch High School, was awarded a \$1,500 grant from Mu Alpha Theta, the national high school and two year college mathematics honor society, for classroom math teaching materials. This grant is awarded to teachers who were student members of Mu Alpha Theta and are in their first three years of teaching.

The John Paul II High School Cheer team placed 2nd at the TAPPS Cheer Championships. **Gabby G. '16**, **Vanessa D. '16** and **Julianna S. '16** are all members of the team. **Cori G. '08** is the coach. **Julianna** also won 1st Team All State.



**Tom S. '04** (pictured second from left), a graduate of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, Texas Christian University and The University of Texas at Dallas, is an Olympic hopeful in

Karate for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He took gold at the 2019 Pan American games in Lima, Peru and is currently a top contender for qualification.

**Anupa M. '18** was recently inducted as an Ursuline Academy of Dallas Ambassador.

The John Paul II High School Boys Swim team took the title of 2020 TAPPS Regional Champion, and the Girls team finished 4th. In the CFB Invitational Swim Meet, **Rachel D. '16** and **Jamieson M. '17** were members of the Girls team that placed 2nd overall. **Matt C. '17** was a member of the Boys team that placed 13th in the 400 Free Relay and 14th in the 200 Free Relay at the North TISCA Invitational Swim Meet, setting new school records in both races.

In the recent Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas production of "The Great Gatsby," **Elena V. '18**, a sophomore at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, played "Catherine" and **Mark M. '18**, a sophomore at Jesuit, played "Benny."

During the fall season, two St. Mark alumni were named Football "Players of the Week" at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas: **Jack P. '18** (JV Defense) and **Charlie H. '19** (Freshman Offense).

21 will bring another wish-granting event -- stay tuned!

## 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!

### Auction & Gala

February 29, 2020

Visit the [Auction website](#) for details, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket sales.



ST. MARK  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**BOOTS**  
and  
*Ballgowns*

February 29, 2020 - Southfork Ranch

### STEM Fair

April 24, 2020

Interactive fun for the whole family. For details and sponsorship opportunities, [please click here](#).

**Genevieve B. '19** is a member of the Jesuit Ursuline Ranger Band that competed in the 2019 TPSMEA (Texas Private School Music Educators Association) State Marching Contest. They were awarded straight "superior" (or perfect) ratings in addition to receiving Superior Marching Band and Superior Drum Line ratings.

**Kyanna I. '16**, a senior at John Paul II High School, participated in the ESD Upper School Invitational Visual Arts Exhibition in the Ceramic Vessel category.

Members of the Ursuline Academy of Dallas Global Advisory Council and Junior World Affairs Club attended the H. Mallon Awards dinner at the Anatole Hotel honoring Mike Rawlings, former Dallas Mayor, for his work in advancing Dallas' international connections and profile. **Sarah H. '16** was among the attendees.

Members of the John Paul II High School Volleyball team recently received honors including **Hannah B. '17**, All District and Academic All State, and **Lindsey G. '16**, All District Honorable Mention.

**Emma L. '17**, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, attended the STEM Career Day hosted by the education department at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Students received career advice from professionals at local DFW STEM companies, participated in hands-on STEM challenges, and met with local colleges about their STEM programs.

**Sean J. '17** was awarded All Star Cast and **Declan W. '17** was awarded Honorable Mention All Star Cast at the TAPPS One Act Play District Contest. Both are students at John Paul II High School.

**Lauren N. '17**, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, teamed up with a fellow classmate to paint winter-themed windows at The Family Place Resale Shop over Christmas break.

**Nick L. '15**, a graduate of John Paul II High School, earned a spot on the Dean's Honor List in the fall semester at Texas Tech University. He is studying Pre-Med in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The John Paul II High School Cardinal Belles drill team won their 3rd TAPPS State Championship. They won their division and were the highest-scoring team out of every division. They also excelled at the 2020 Crowd Pleasers North Dallas

St. Mark Catholic School



## Spring Musical

May 7, 2020

6:30 PM

Join us for the performance, *Going...Going...Gone With the Breeze*, or become a volunteer.

Contact [patty.corsi@stmcs.net](mailto:patty.corsi@stmcs.net) for details.



**STAY CONNECTED**

Regional Competition winning Officer Overall Grand Champions, Team Overall Grand Champions, and Overall Grand Champions as the highest scoring team of the entire contest, placing first in every team, officer, and ensemble routine they entered. Team members include **Ella P. '17**, **Carley H. '18**, and **Lauren G. '19**.

**Emilio R. '17**, a junior at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, is a member of the Jesuit History Bowl team that won the Oklahoma History Bee and Bowl and qualified for Nationals.



**Justus B. '17**, a junior at John Paul II High School, earned his Private Pilot License at the age of 17 after passing his FAA practical exam in January. His extensive six

months of flight training were made possible through a scholarship granted to him by the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary branch of the U.S. Air Force. Justus has been an active member of Civil Air Patrol since age 13, and currently serves as Cadet Commander of the Plano Mustangs Composite Squadron. Justus also flew his first solo in a glider this past summer. He looks to take his passion for flying and his newly earned license forward towards an aviation degree and ultimately, a career as a commercial pilot.

## AROUND CAMPUS

As we kicked off Catholic Schools Week, **the Class of 2019 portrait was officially unveiled** on January 26. It now hangs in the main hallway. In



keeping with tradition, the ceremony opened with a prayer, followed by a request by Mrs. Opon that the former students

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 send an email to [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 donate 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.

\*[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-

recite the school mission statement (yes, they remembered every word!). Students had fun locating their pictures and posing for their parents.



The **St. Mark Robotics** teams competed in their first public school robotics competition through the Texas

Computer Education Association Area 10 and placed as follows, qualifying them to compete at the State competition: 1st Place – Invention Division: Amelia M., Gabriela M., Nataly M., Hannah R.; 2nd Place – Invention Division: Loe C., Matt M., Sebastian R., Evan V., 2nd Place – Arena Division – Karson A., Diya C., Sneha M., Jeslyn T.

The **St. Mark Quiz Bowl Team A** made it to semi-finals in the Lion's Lair Tournament held at St. Mark's School of Texas, winning 3rd place AND a ticket to the National competition in Chicago in May. Team members were Captain Anthony N., Sebastian R., Jozsi A., Donte T., Max Z., and Michael G. They also competed in the TQBA Fort Worth Open II against 26 teams and made it to the Quarter Finals, eventually losing to top seed Greenhill A. Team players were: Anthony N., Jozsi A., Max Z., Alfredo R., Pratosh R. and Nathan P.



The St. Mark **Religion Bowl** team competed in the Reverend Thomas Cloherty Religion Scholars Bowl during Catholic Schools Week. They reached the Finals, placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall out of 30 teams. Team members are: Jozsi A., Laura P., Diya C. and Marilyn P.

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 the school simply by linking your shopper card to St. Mark.

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





8th grader, Anthony N., won the St. Mark **Geography Bee** and now has the opportunity to take the State level test. 6th grader, Nathan P., was the Runner-Up.



At the **Diocesan Grade School Speech Tournament**, Nicholas K./Isaiah P. received the Red Ribbon Award for Duet Acting, both Diya C./Alina S. and Casie P./Sophia L. received the Blue Ribbon Award for

Duet Acting, and Vincent O. received the Trophy Award for a perfect score in Dramatic Interpretation. At the **Diocese of Dallas Middle School Diocesan Speech Tournament**, Nicholas K. and Isiah 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.

## QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)  
[Admissions](#)  
[Safe Environment](#)  
[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

"Like" and "share"  
on your social media!

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

**[www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net) | (972) 578-0610**

Copyright © 2020. All Rights Reserved.