



St. Mark Catholic School

Weekly Bulletin

April 25, 2014

In This Issue:

Reminders for Next Week
Virtue of the Month
Community Shower for the Elsey Family
Another Work of Heart Award for St. Mark
First Day of School 2014-15
1st & 7th Grade Sacrament Meetings
"5th Grade Bridges to Middle School" Meeting
Early Childhood Open House
Field Day Update
Spring Musical – A MUST-SEE PERFORMANCE!
Summer Reading and Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Theology of the Body Invitation
Summer Camp at Ava's Place
Summer Camps Offered by Catholic High Schools
Canonization Mass at John Paul II High School
Mayfest at John Paul II High School
At St. Mark, We Serve.
Seen & Heard Around St. Mark
LION PRIDE!

Reminders for Next Week

Saturday, April 26

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, the Sacrament of Confirmation

Our thoughts and prayers are with our eighth grade students in both the school and parish as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation.

PSIA State Meet, Texas Christian University

Wishing our competing St. Mark students good luck – GO LIONS!

Sunday, April 27

7:15 PM Net Ministries Meeting, Cafetorium

Monday, April 28

7:00 PM First Communion meeting for current 1st grade parents, Great Room, St. Mark Parish Center

Wednesday, April 30

7:20 AM Mathfax Breakfast

4:30-6:30 PM Early Childhood Open House/Family Picnic, Preschool Building

Thursday, May 1

9:00 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM Spring Musical Performances

Saturday, May 3

6:30 PM Theology of the Body Dinner & Dance, St. Mark Parish Center

Virtue of the Month - LOVE

Each month, our students are asked to focus on a virtue. For the month of April, it is love. Teachers incorporate the Virtue of the Month into their classrooms through stories and activities that enable students to see the virtue in action.

Community Shower

One of our St. Mark School families, lost their home and all of their belongings due to a fire on March 12th. We are asking families to help them get a fresh start and to contribute these **NEW items** as gifts. We are calling it a Community Shower. Please click here to sign up to help.

Another Work of Heart Award for St. Mark!

Congratulations to 7th/8th grade Religion teacher Stacy Oliver for receiving the Work of Heart award! We are so proud that she has been recognized for her dedication to our school community. This is the second month in a row that someone from St. Mark has received this award. Presented by The Catholic Foundation, Work of Heart Awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. At St. Mark, we are blessed to have so many recipients of this award on our staff. Would you like to nominate someone? It's easy -- simply visit The Catholic Foundation's [web site](#) and submit an online nomination form.

First Day of School 2014-15

For summer planning purposes, we wanted to let you know that Wednesday, August 13, 2014 will be the first day of school for the 2014-15 school year. Please mark your calendars!

1st & 7th Grade Sacrament Meetings

As a reminder to current 1st grade and 7th grade parents of students who will receive Sacraments next year: Parents are required to attend two parent meetings in preparation for these Sacraments. The first meeting is scheduled in the spring, the second in the fall. The spring meeting for current 1st

grade parents will be held on April 28, 7:00 PM, in the Great Room at the St. Mark Parish Center. The spring meeting for current 7th grade parents will be held on May 12 at 7:00 PM in the same location.

“5th Grade Bridges to Middle School” Meeting

Attention 5th grade parents: The annual “5th Grade Bridges to Middle School” meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7th at 3:00 PM in the Cafetorium. Parents will be given information on what to expect from a middle school student, our middle school philosophy and logistics schedule, as well as information on home bases and electives. We will also be joined by a panel of expert 6th graders to answer questions.

St. Mark Early Childhood Open House

The St. Mark Early Childhood Program, encompassing our Preschool, Transitional (5 year old) Kindergarten, and Kindergarten classes, will be hosting an Open House and Family Picnic on Wednesday, April 30. Guests can come and go between 4:30-6:30 PM in the Preschool Building, and are invited to learn more about our programs, meet teachers and staff, and tour the facility. A picnic dinner will be served. Pre-registration is available on our [website](#).

Field Day Update

Attention Field Day Volunteers: Please mark your calendars. There will be a Field Day volunteer meeting on Thursday, May 15th at 7:55 AM in the cafeteria. Due to a wonderful response from parents, all Field Day volunteer positions have been filled, so we are unable to accommodate any additional requests. Thank you to all parents who signed up to help on Field Day!

Spring Musical – A MUST-SEE PERFORMANCE!

Everyone is invited to attend the annual St. Mark Spring Musical on Thursday, May 1st in the Cafetorium. This is a performance by our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who participate in the Spring Musical elective. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend any of the performances: 9:00 AM (will be attended by grades Pre-K -4th); 2:30 PM (will be attended by grades 5th-8th); 6:30 PM (evening performance open to everyone).

Summer Reading and Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Each summer, our students in grades 4th-8th are assigned required summer reading. Following are the books assigned for summer 2014 (for incoming students):

4th – Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

5th – Ben and Me

6th – Sign of the Beaver

7th – Shades of Gray

8th – Across Five Aprils

You can pick up your summer reading books at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair beginning this Friday! St. Mark Catholic School is having a Book Fair, in conjunction with Barnes and Noble, beginning today through May 1st at the Barnes and Noble located at 801 West 15th Street (at Alma). Stop by any time during the weekend and pick up your summer reading, buy presents for Moms, Dads, or Grads, or buy a book for the school library. There will be characters, guest readers and music. Today, The Cat in The Hat will appear to do a reading of his book. Local author Marci Peschke will be doing a reading and book signing of her new book *Kylie Jean, Green Queen* on Sunday, April 27th at 2:00pm, followed by a special St. Mark-sponsored Spring/Earth Day craft. Don't forget to mention St. Mark when you check out, as the school will receive a percentage of the sale! Bookmarks with our exclusive St. Mark number **#11352770** are available in the school library. This number can be used in-store until May 1st, or online until May 8th.

Theology of the Body Invitation

Did you know that St. Mark is one of the only schools in the Diocese that offers the Theology of the Body program to our students? Theology of the Body was given to us by Blessed John Paul II and these teachings can transform the lives of people of all ages and in any state in life. It teaches us about God's plan for life and love, and how beautiful it really is. We are so blessed to have this program at St. Mark, and to have it incorporated into our 8th grade curriculum beginning next year.

You are invited to attend the Theology of the Body dinner and dance benefiting TOBET (Theology of the Body Evangelization Team) on Saturday, May 3rd, 6:30 PM at the St. Mark Parish Center. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this wonderful program. Monica Ashour is a national speaker and will give a talk, along with John Austin. She will have just returned from the canonization and will bring back special items for door prizes. Tickets are \$25.00. Online registration for the dinner is available at tobet.org. Raffle tickets are available for some great prizes. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, it would be much appreciated. Please pass along the attached flyer and help spread the word!

NET Ministries

Come celebrate St. Mark's GREAT NEWS about NET Ministries! Join us for a reception **Sunday, April 27th at 7:15 pm**, in the St. Mark Cafetorium. There will be refreshments, games, and a presentation by NET director Michelle Pothen about how NET will team up with St. Mark parish and school to serve our students and youth for the next three years. Contact Megan McQuaid at mmcquaid@stmarkplano.org or (972) 578-9583 x3. Visit www.netusa.org/parishteams for more information about the NET Parish Teams program.

Summer Camp at Ava's Place

Ava's Place Child Development Center (formerly the St. Mark Child Development Center), located at the southwest corner of 15th Street & Alma Drive, offers an exciting 12-week summer

program for children in Pre-K through 3rd grade. Weekly themes, fun activities, arts/crafts, and on-site field trips are offered in a clean and friendly environment. Enrollment is \$100 per family. A weekly tuition rate of \$175.00 includes two snacks per day, lunch, and field trips for children 5 and older. There will be a 5% discount offered to families that enroll a second child. We would love to have you join us this summer. For more information or to enroll, please contact Ava's Place at (972) 578-7970.

Summer Camps Offered by Catholic High Schools

Bishop Lynch: This summer, the following camps are available for grades K-12: Aquatics, Athletic Performance, Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Crew & Rowing, Dance/Drill Team, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling. To register, visit the [Bishop Lynch website](#).

Jesuit: [Click here](#) for a listing of available camps, and for registration.

Canonization Mass at John Paul II

The John Paul II High School community invites you to celebrate the Canonization of Blessed John Paul II at a special Mass on Monday, April 28 at 10:00 AM in the Large Gym. All are welcome. Please direct questions to Jackie Fleming at 469-229-5111.

Mayfest at John Paul II

You are invited to attend John Paul II High School's Mayfest event on May 3 from 6:00-10:00 PM. This is a family-friendly event. Admission is free. See the attachment for more details.

At St. Mark, We Serve.

St. Mark Team Helps the Needy: Recently, the 7th grade boys D1 basketball team got together for a service project through the SLANT program (Service Learning Adventures in North Texas). This year, SLANT partnered with the NCAA Men's Final Four, engaging thousands of youth in projects that spark change and address real-life needs in their own neighborhoods. The team volunteered at Minnie's Food Pantry in Plano, in support of needy families in our own backyard.

Another Note of Thanks For Our School-Wide Service Project in March (Baylor Cancer Center Gift Bags): "It was such a wonderful surprise to receive your gift bag at the infusion center. Your delicious treats, and most especially your prayers, cheered me and made the day very special. It meant very much to me to receive this from the students at St. Mark, since my grandson graduated from there last year, and our family attends Mass at St. Mark each week. May God bless all of you for the kindness and thoughtfulness you have shown to others."

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Living Stations of the Cross

Congratulations to the 8th grade class on their beautiful and moving performance of the Living Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday. The entire school, as well as parishioners, were able to enjoy it. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who made it happen, especially Claudine Humphries, Mary Bondi, Tina VanAmerogen, Lauren O'Brien, Sylvia Condino, and Chris Keith; to Mrs. Patty Corsi for her help with the music and choir; and to the parents who provided donuts and refreshments to the 8th graders as a reward for all of their hard work!

8th Grade "Day of Reflection"

On Tuesday, the 8th grade class came together for a "Day of Reflection" in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend. They enjoyed breakfast provided by parents, as well as activities that asked them to reflect on what their upcoming Sacrament means. Thank you to the teachers and parents who organized this special day for our students. (See a photo of the class at the top of the bulletin.)

7th Grade Field Trip to the Dallas Zoo

Last week, our 7th graders took their annual field trip to the Dallas Zoo. While they had a great time, there was also some work involved. Students took a guided tour on the African savannah, and took an animal food chain/food web class. They were also instructed to take 27 photos of things that represent concepts they have learned across the curriculum this year, which they will then present to the class (for example, a ratio, a simile, one of the gospels, and animals from different continents). Part of this year's trip to the zoo was paid for by a Target Field Trip Grant.

4th Grade Remembers the Alamo

To go along with their Social Studies unit on the Alamo, the 4th grade class recently had a special visit from Denton County Sheriff Will Travis. Travis ... the Alamo ... is there a connection? Yes, indeed. Will Travis is a descendant of William B. Travis, one of the famous heroes from the Battle of the Alamo. Students were thrilled to hear details of the battle and ask questions of someone who has a special connection to the event!

LION PRIDE!

There is much to ROAR about at St. Mark! Each week, we will feature just some of the many reasons we're so proud to be St. Mark Lions ...

St. Mark Students Succeed Outside of School, Too! Recently, 5th grader Ian P. participated in the 2014 AAU Freestyle Judo National Championship and received a bronze medal. Alexander and Vincent C. competed in the Dallas Stars Youth Hockey League Championship and won 1st place in the Mite (8 & under) Bronze Division. Congratulations to all!

Awesome Catch! Nick G. caught a foul ball at the Texas Rangers game last Thursday. The catch was broadcast all over ESPN's Sports Center with the caption "Sign This Kid Up," and it was even

included in Sports Center's "Top 10 Plays of the Day." To see it for yourself, search "Sports Center Top 10 April 17, 2014" on YouTube.