



St. Mark Catholic School

Weekly Bulletin

May 9, 2014 – May Crowning

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Reminders for the Next Week Two Weeks

Saturday, May 10

10:00 AM The Sacrament of First Communion, St. Mark Catholic Church, reception immediately following in the Narthex, hosted by the 1st grade class

Our thoughts and prayers are with our second grade students in both the school and parish as they receive the gift of Eucharist for the first time.

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day, and may God bless all of the wonderful mothers in our community.

Monday, May 12

7:00 PM Confirmation Meeting for current 7th grade families, St. Mark Parish Center

Wednesday, May 14

6:00 PM AHA CPR/First Aid Course for DPL Coaches, Cafetorium Conference Room

Thursday, May 15

2:30 PM Band Concert, Cafetorium

Monday, May 19

7:30-8:00 AM 8th Grade Memory Boards Due, Cafetorium

Thursday, May 22

12:30 PM 8th Grade Parent/Graduate Luncheon, Cafetorium

Friday, May 23

8:30 AM 8th Grade Farewell Mass, followed by family reception in Cafetorium

5:30 PM 8th Grade Photos, School Lobby

6:30 PM 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony, St. Mark Catholic Church, reception immediately following in the Cafetorium

9:00 PM 8th Grade Dance, Cafetorium

Virtue of the Month - ACCEPTANCE

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

Announcing the St. Mark “Lifetime Lions” Alumni Network!

Calling all alumni! It is with LION PRIDE that St. Mark Catholic School announces our official alumni network, *Lifetime Lions*! More than 1,400 students have graced our halls over the years and have gone on to be successful in high school, college, and in their careers. It is our goal to form a network among these valued alumni so that we can all stay in touch and form an ongoing and mutually beneficial relationship. New opportunities for alumni are being developed, including the “Lions Mentor Lions” program, allowing alumni to return to St. Mark and share their expertise and experiences with our current students. Perhaps we have an alum who is good at Robotics and would like to assist our Robotics team, or a current high school student who excels at math and would spend time with one of our math classes, or a basketball player who could work with one of our school teams. It’s a great chance to give back, and for those in high school, to earn valuable service hours. We want to be sure to include all of our alumni in these opportunities. If you know a St. Mark alum, or have one or more in your household, please direct them to our [website](#) to register and learn more. Each graduate who registers will receive a numbered Lifetime Lions membership certificate, and will be placed on our mailing list to receive future alumni communications. **8th grade parents: Be sure to register your 2014 graduate now.** Let’s all welcome our alumni back to the St. Mark family with LION PRIDE!

Your New Student Council Officers

Congratulations to the 2014-15 Student Council Officers: President-Nicola L.; Vice President-Savannah H.; Secretary-Janice R.; and Treasurer-Julie B.

Spotlight on Staff

Not one, but two St. Mark faculty members earned their Masters degrees this past weekend. Preschool Coordinator Toni Jobes earned her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M Commerce. Second grade teacher Carolyn Eisele earned her Masters degree in Education with a focus on Advanced Literacy from Concordia University. Congratulations to them both on this outstanding accomplishment!

Another Work of Heart Award for St. Mark!

Our Assistant Principal Mrs. Kathi Ehring was presented with the Work of Heart Award at the May Crowning Mass today, making this the **third** month in a row that a member of the St. Mark community has received this honor. Presented by the Catholic Foundation, this award honors those who make outstanding contributions to our educational community. Congratulations to Mrs. Ehring, and thank you for your dedication to St. Mark! To nominate a staff member, [click here](#).

Pre-Order School Supplies Now for 2014-15

St. Mark school families can now pre-order/pre-pay for school supplies for the 2014-15 school year. There will be ONE order form (attached) for all required supplies. Pre-orders will be accepted through **June 13, 2014**. If you will be purchasing your school supplies elsewhere you **must still use this form to order the mandatory St. Mark Specialty Supplies**. 2014-15 [school supply lists](#) by grade are now posted on the St. Mark School website under the "Parents" tab.

All pre-ordered supplies will be available for pickup on **Sunday, August 3rd from 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON in the OLD GYM**. We will have a limited stock of supplies available for sale on a first come/first serve basis.

Pre-ordered supplies require pre-payment. For your convenience, payments can be made via cash or check to the school office, or electronically through the school website via credit/debit card.

News From The Athletic Department

The 2014-15 St. Mark athletic season is just a few weeks away beginning with Volleyball, Football, and Cross Country. Any parent intending to coach next year for a St. Mark team will need to complete the three mandatory requirements designated by St. Mark Catholic School, Church, and Dallas Parochial League. **(No adult is allowed to coach during practice or sit on a game bench if requirements are not current).**

- **AHA CPR/First Aid Course**
- **Safe Environment Program**

- DPL Play Like a Champion Workshop

Nurse Berard has graciously offered to certify future St. Mark coaches for the AHA/First Aid Course requirement. The certification is valid for 2 years and the cost to all St. Mark parents is only \$7.00, which is a great benefit to all, considering online courses cost approximately \$70-\$85.

When: Wednesday, May 14th

Time: 6:00 - 7:15 pm

Place: Cafetorium Conference Room

How to pay: Online at stmcs.net under "epayments and fees" (prior to Wednesday)

Registration: Please email marlene.ehring@stmcs.net to reserve a spot. Only 8 spots remaining.

This is a great opportunity to get a jump start and knock out one of the three courses. The 2014-15 school year will be upon us before you know it, so please don't delay! Opportunities such as this are not frequent. Course information regarding the other two requirements will be sent out to coaches designated to specific teams:

- The Safe Environment Course can be scheduled on the St. Mark Church [website](#).
- PLC class dates vary throughout the school year. Two dates are usually available prior to the fall season (August dates) and winter season (January date).

The St. Mark student athletes and athletic program appreciate your commitment and support.

Weekly School Bulletin Archive Now Online

The St. Mark Catholic School "Weekly School Bulletins" will now be archived and available on our [website](#) under the "Parents" tab. If you need to access information from past bulletins, you can now do so. Please note that when these bulletins are posted online, the children's photos and last names will be removed for privacy purposes.

John Paul II Summer Tennis Camps

John Paul II High School is offering summer tennis camps for ages 7-18. Please see the bulletin attachment for more details.

Did you know...?

Did you know that there is a "prayer table" in all St. Mark classrooms? Each classroom's table is different, but they all make religious items available for the children to interact with such as a Bible, a rosary, religious figurines, and prayer cards.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

May Crowning Mass: Today, our students honored Mary at the All-School Mass by wearing “Sunday best” clothes to school and presenting a single flower that was placed on the altar in front of the statue of our Blessed Mother. Traditional May Crowning hymns were sung, and we had a special performance by the 2nd grade class – read below.

Judge Blankenship Visits Kindergarten: This week, Kindergarten read the children’s book *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. It’s about a class that doesn’t show any respect for their good-natured teacher, Miss Nelson. But when a strict substitute teacher (Miss Viola Swamp) appears on the scene, they start to regret their disrespectful ways. Our Kindergartners also happened to have a visitor this week, “Judge Blankenship,” Mrs. Blankenship’s twin sister. She didn’t seem to be quite as fun as their regular “good-natured teacher.” The lesson? Appreciate those we value.



2nd Grade Sunflower Song: It is a St. Mark tradition that each year, in honor of their First Communion, the 2nd grade class sings “The Sunflower Song” at the conclusion of the All-School Mass that precedes their First Communion ceremony. Today, the tradition continued. Thank you 2nd graders for your wonderful performance!

4th Grade Makes Puffmobiles: To go along with their chapter on Newton’s Law, our 4th grade students were asked to design and build their own “puffmobiles” out of 4 Lifesavers candies, 2 paperclips, 1 piece of construction paper, 3 straws, and tape. The challenge was to design a vehicle that would move forward when the children blew “puffs” of air on it. Races were held, winners were determined, and a discussion ensued about changes they would make if asked to redesign their vehicles, all in an effort to teach the concepts of force and motion.

5th Grade Flies A Kite! The 5th grade class got to go outside to fly kites! While this was a great way to enjoy the beautiful spring weather, there was a purpose to all of this fun. They were asked to use what they saw and heard while flying kites to write prose. What a creative way to teach the students how to use their senses in their writing!

6th Grade Corresponds With French Pen Pals: Mrs. Denvir and Mrs. Smith’s 6th grade Language Arts classes have been corresponding as “pen pals” with French 6th graders from a prestigious Catholic school located near Lyon, France, called Notre Dame de Mongré (www.mongre.org). When Mrs. Denvir’s 6th grade niece, Philippine, requested on behalf of her English teacher to have American pen pals to practice their English, our teachers saw it as an opportunity for our St. Mark students to practice the lost art of letter writing, as well as discover another culture in

the Catholic school setting. So far, two 6th grade classes have exchanged two letters with their French counterparts in Ms. Pauline Carret's classes, and our third 6th grade class is sending their letters this week. All of our students have been excited to tell their pen pals about school life here at St. Mark, and vice versa. Très bien (very good)!

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 Student Earns Scholarship: Milly M. was awarded a scholarship by the *Jethsuby Scholarship Fund of the Catholic Foundation*. This fund was created by Dr. and Mrs. Mauricio Delgado through the Catholic Foundation with the mission to provide Hispanic students the necessary resources to obtain a Catholic education. The fund provides scholarships to Hispanic students attending or planning to attend Catholic elementary school in the Diocese of Dallas and may be up to 50% of the parish tuition rate depending on financial need. Students are nominated based on academic performance, character, and participation in school activities. For additional information and an application, please visit www.jethsuby.org.

A note from Eric Huff, M.Ed., Director of Operations, National History Bee: *I wanted to write and offer my congratulations on the performances of Minh-Huy P., Valeria M., Carter P., and Minh-Tuan P. at the National History Bee Regional Finals. We look forward to seeing them at the National Finals in Atlanta as they compete against some of the best history students from across the country. Having four students qualify for the National Finals is an accomplishment only shared by a handful of schools across the country. This speaks well not only of these students but of the learning community at St. Mark Catholic School as a whole. Congratulations to these students, and thank you for representing St. Mark so well!*

Duke TIP: Earlier this year, 7,708 Duke TIP 4th-6th grade participants had the opportunity to take an optional above-level test called EXPLORE. The test results give students insights into their academic abilities. 194 EXPLORE testers earned a composite score in the 99th percentile or higher and will receive recognition in honor of their achievement. Two of these students attend St. Mark: Joel K. and Antonio M. Congratulations to them both!

Congratulations are in order: The following Kindergarten students participate on a YMCA soccer team, and just completed an undefeated season for the second year in a row, placing first in their league: Ambrose D., Jack D., Korbin M., Nolan L., PJ L., Rhys W., William B., and Zane B. Several of our students recently participated in the Lone Star Regionals club volleyball tournament, including Sydney B. and Natalia S., whose teams took second place in the 12s division, and 1st place in the 11s division, respectively. Congratulations to all!

Principal's Corner

In honor of Mother's Day, I'd like to share an excerpt from Pope Francis' statement on May 7 about a mother's gift of counsel (from the Vatican Radio website):

"I remember once, I was in the confessional, and there was a long queue in front of the Shrine of Lujan, the diocese of that bishop there, and there was a young man in the queue, all modern with tattoos and ... he came to tell me what was happening in his life. He had a big, difficult problem. 'And [he asked me] what would you do? So I told my mother about this and my mother said to me: 'Go to the Virgin Mary and she will tell you what you must do.' Here was a woman who had the gift of counsel. She did not know how to solve her son's problems but she indicated the right way: 'Go to Our Lady and she'll tell you.' This is the gift of counsel. Do not say, 'Do this' Let the Spirit speak. And that woman, humble, simple, gave her son the truest, most beautiful advice, because this young man said to me: 'I looked upon Our Lady and I heard that I need to do this, this, this.' I did not have to say a word. It all came from my mother, the Virgin Mary and the young man. This is the gift of counsel. You mothers who have this gift, ask for this gift for your children: the gift of being able to counsel your children. It is a gift from God."