



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Bridge

POSITIVE ATTITUDES

COURAGE

PATIENCE

WISDOM

PEACEFUL WAYS

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

November 15, 2019

Parents,

#Comegrowinfaith is a hashtag that I often use on our St. Mark Catholic School social media posts. While it is catchy and is used to help promote our school, it's meaning has many parts in school and our church. Growing in our faith in God is the most important thing that we do at St. Mark Catholic School. Whether it be our students, staff, parents or visitors, every action that we take, every word we speak, every smile we share, and every statue that is present, helps us to grow in our faith in God.

We provide many opportunities each day to grow in faith. While public schools and non-christian private schools provide academic opportunities for all children, we are different by how we can openly share our faith with our students and with each other. As a former teacher in a public school for 18 years, I can tell you that many times I felt inadequate when I could not pray with my students. I could not start class with prayer or pray openly before lunch. I did not have a crucifix, a statue of our Mother Mary, or a prayer corner in my classroom. The feeling in the school was one of kindness, but it was not Christ-like. I will have to admit that I was called to the Principal's office a few times and "warned" about discussing God in my classroom, but it only furthered my passion for sharing my faith with others.

Fr. Tim and I have spoken often about our mutual expectation that all families at St. Mark Catholic School who are registered parishioners at St. Mark the Evangelist Church should attend weekend Mass at St. Mark with their children. To reiterate, if you are claiming to be a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Church (Active Parishioner when registering for school) and your children attend St. Mark Catholic School, you should be attending weekend Mass with your children. Masses at St. Mark the Evangelist Church are: Saturday at 5:30pm, Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:45am. **If you are not attending Masses at St. Mark on weekends with your children, please notify the school office that your status is now "Non-Parishioner" and your tuition will be adjusted accordingly.**

Growing in our faith in God is more than five days a week process. It is going to Mass on weekends with your children, it is praying with your children, it is doing service for others with your children, it is reading scripture with your children, it is talking about God, about Jesus, and answering questions they have about their faith. We all have many excuses for not attending Mass on weekends: "I have to work. We have a softball tournament. I can't get the kids up. Our kids don't behave in Mass. My kids already go to Mass during the week at St. Mark. We are out of town. We want to sleep in. I don't get anything out of Mass. etc."

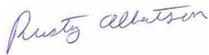
Every time you find an excuse to not bring your children to Mass, you are denying them a chance to be a part of a Miracle. Every time you choose something other than coming to God's house on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, your children are missing out on hearing the words of God. Every time you miss Mass on a weekend with your children, you have missed an opportunity for you personally to grow in your faith, a faith that you can rely on when times are tough, when you need a rock to climb on, a boat to step into, or to hear a voice in the desert.

Going to church is a personal decision. Registering as a parishioner at St. Mark the Evangelist and enrolling your children at St. Mark Catholic School is also your choice. But when you do, it is our expectation that you attend Mass on the weekend with your children if you claim Active Parishioner Status when you register each year. The benefits of making this decision can be life changing for you and your family, but it is your choice. I know for me personally, early in my life, I struggled with my faith in many aspects. My beliefs were weak at times. I know once I made a commitment to attend Mass with my family every week, to increase prayer in my life, to become more of a "giver" to others, to read more scripture, and to allow God to use me as He wishes, my life has had more joy, more meaning and a clearer purpose.

Some will read this and feel that I am “preaching” to them. I am. This is too important to drop hints about. Helping to prepare a path to Heaven for your children is crucial. This is about eternity, not just about living on a material earth. We are St. Mark the EVANGELIST Catholic Church. I would not be answering God’s call if I do not evangelize to bring others closer to God. Sometimes with words, sometimes with actions, sometimes by just listening, or sometimes with a high-five and a smile.

The older I get the more important and stronger my faith has become. We LOVE having each of you as a part of our St. Mark Catholic School family. We love your children like our own. Our #1 goal is to help them to #comegrowinfaith. We need your help. They need your help. Continue to partner with us. God Bless you and your family. Have a great weekend and we will see you at Mass, THIS WEEKEND, with your child!

Thanks and God Bless,



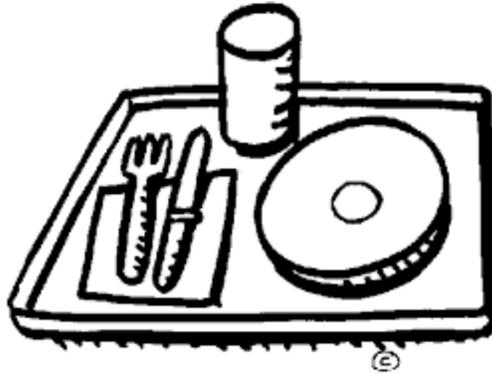
Rusty Albertson
Principal
St. Mark Catholic School

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov	21		1:00 pm Student Dismissal - (Teacher Professional Dvlp) No After Care
	27	8:00 am	Thanksgiving All School Mass, Church
	28-29		Thanksgiving Break - No School
Dec	1		Advent Begins
	2		Early Bird Pre-K Registration
	4	7:00 pm	2nd-5th grade Christmas Program, Church; Bake Sale after program
	11		Spirit Wear Delivered-Sent home with oldest or only child
	12		Jaggers Dine Out Night
	16-17		Santa Shop, Parish Center
	20		End of 2nd Quarter
	20	11:00 am	PK - 1st Christmas Program, Church
	20	1:00 pm	1:00 pm Student Dismissal - (Teacher Professional Dvlp) No After Care
Dec	23		Christmas Break Begins - No School thru January 3rd.
Jan	6		Classes Resume

FROM THE CAFETERIA

Lunch Menu - November 18 thru 22



Monday	Beef Meatballs/Gravy, Bow Tie Pasta, Green Beans and Goldfish Graham Crackers
Tuesday	Mashed Potato Bowl - Chicken Smackers over Corn and Mashed Potatoes with w/ Chicken Gravy and Hawaiian Rolls
Wednesday	Teriyaki Chicken, Asian Noodles, Sugar Snap Peas and (2-8 - Egg Rolls)
Thursday	Stuffed Crust Cheese OR Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza and Caesar Salad
Friday	Toasted Cheese Sandwich with Tomato Soup

St. Mark Food Drive November 4th- 15th



St. Mark Catholic School Families are helping the Little Sisters of the Poor, David S. Moore Food Pantry, Hunger Inc., and Cathedral Soup Kitchen. Students should bring in non-perishable food items such as canned food, soup, boxed pasta, etc. Students can also bring in monetary donations. Students should bring their non-perishable food items as well as any monetary donations to their homeroom teacher. Monetary donations should be placed in a sealed envelope and labeled. The pantries have requested no bottled water.

Thank you in advance for your help to end hunger in our community.

Calling All St. Mark Bakers!



BAKE SALE

The St. Mark Service Club is sponsoring a Bake Sale after the Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 4th.

Please send your favorite based item (homemade or store bought) to school on Wednesday, December 4th, individually plated or bagged, if possible.

Members of the Service Club will be at drop off to accept your donation.

Stop by the Bake Sale after the Christmas Program to purchase yummy baked goods.

All proceeds benefit service projects undertaken by the St Mark Service Club.

Thank you for helping!

CONTINUING FUNDRAISERS



Kroger Community Rewards

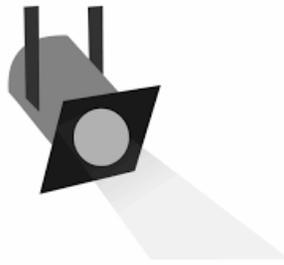
Do you shop at Kroger? Sign up your Kroger's Plus Shopper's Card in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and choose "St. Mark Catholic School". Our organization number is: XM409. The web site is:

<https://www.kroger.com/topic/school-programs>



Coca-Cola Rewards Program is back this year!

Caps and boxes that have a "My Official Coke Rewards Code" on them Can be redeemed for money and the money goes back to St. Mark School! Just turn your coke reward products into Mrs. Leszcynski in the school office



Spotlight on Box Tops for Education

New and Improved Mobile App. Here is how it works...

- Buy Box Top Products
- Scan your Receipt (use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase)
- Earn cash for your school!

Current Box Top Clips

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but many continue to be found on many products.

- Buy Box Top Products
- Cut out the Box Top from each Package
- Send your box tops to our school

See products and learn more about the Box Tops App at <https://www.btfе.com/>



CYO SPORTS

For CYO athletic questions, please contact one of the following on the St. Mark Athletic Commission Board:

- SMAC President ~ Michelle Goss at the following email: gossteach@yahoo.com
- SMAC Athletic Director ~ Frank Litz at the following email: flitz@stmarkindy.org

Sign up for CYO Volleyball is underway!

- Who: Girls Volleyball Grades 4th - 8th and Boys Volleyball Grades 5th - 8th.
- When: Sign up by November 19th!
- Cost: The fee is \$85. www.cyoarchindy.org

Boys and Girls Volleyball Open Gyms

Does your child have an interest in volleyball or just want to work on basic skills? **St. Mark** will have open gym times available to any child grades **4th-8th, free of charge**. Whether they've played for years or just want to see what volleyball is about, all are welcome! Each session will be led by our volleyball coordinator Brianna Kurasz with the help of our coaches in the St. Mark gym. Each day will focus on a specific skill to help your child improve and become more comfortable with the game.

The last day is as follows:

- November 26th: serving

The session will be divided by age group as follows:

- 3pm-4:30pm Cadet girls and boys
 - 4:30pm-6pm 4th grade girls and boys
 - 6pm-7:30pm 56 girls and boys
-



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Roncalli presents "Singin' In the Rain." Show dates and times are

- November 14th at 7 PM
- November 15th at 6 PM
- November 16th at 2 PM and 7 PM.

Tickets for the upcoming musical are now available. They can be purchased at roncalli.booktix.com. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for Roncalli students and children 14 years old and younger. Remember to print off your tickets and bring them with you to the show. Tickets will be scanned at the entrance to the auditorium. VIP cardholders will need to contact Miki Lewinski at mlewinski@roncalli.org or 317-787-8277 Ext. 249 for your promo code to access your free tickets.

2019-20 Winter Jr. Lady Rebels Information

Registration for winter Jr. Rebels will be on **Saturday, November 23rd** from **1:00-2:30 PM for 4th and 5th Grades** and from **2:45-4:15 for 6th, 7th and 8th** players (who did not play in fall league) will need to be there to be evaluated. The participation for the Winter Indy Hoops League will cost \$60.00 if you need a jersey and \$50.00 if you do not need a jersey.

At least one parent will need to attend the sign-ups in order to make the payment, fill out paperwork and sign the IGHL release of liability form. Players will be evaluated on November 23rd and at the first two practices and then teams will be formed. Each team will practice once during the week and once on Saturday afternoon. Players get 2 games every other Sunday throughout the winter. Below is the Dates of Sunday Games by age group:

Game Dates for **7th & 8th Grade Only** will be **Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22nd**

Game Dates for **4th Grade** will be **Dec. 1, 15th Jan. 12, 26, Feb. 9 and 16th for Tournament**

Game Dates for **5th & 6th Grade** will be **Dec. 8, 22, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, 9 and 16th Tournament**

All individuals interested in coaching should contact Denise McClanahan at 317-371-4010 or email her at dmccclanahan@perryschool.org.

RONCALLI HOSTS EVENING PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATION: DANGERS, SEXTORSION AND REAL LIFE PREDATORS

All parents are welcome to attend a presentation from Detective Darin Odier in the Roncalli Auditorium on Monday, December 2nd from 6:30-8:00 PM. Detective Odier has served our community as a police officer for 30 years and a Federal Task Force Officer with the FBI Child Exploitation unit for 13 years. His presentation will focus on social media applications and dangers, sextorsion and real life predators. Earlier that day, he will be presenting to Roncalli's freshman class. Please note that at his evening presentation, Detective Odier asks that no young children be present. While his talk does not include anything graphic, the subject matter is NOT for children.