



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

Dear Parents,

It has been a week of ups and downs. Weeks like this for some people will cause them to lose faith, but for others their faith is strengthened. Like any other week of the year, the days have been marked with new life added to our world and with lives taken from this earth. Like many things, the outward appearance of something, is a far cry from the view of what is inside. Sunny and warm outside on a November day, dark and cold inside someone's heart.

As many of you know, our friends and fellow parishioners, Doug and Julie Opel had two of their children, Meredith and Mallory, taken from them by a senseless act of violence on Friday, November 24th. No one can imagine what the pain of the loss has been for the Opel family and the friends of Mallory and Meredith. The grieving process is different for each person. The mourning time will be ongoing. The memories will be kept alive.

Having known Doug and Julie for several years, I think back to the support that they gave, and still give, to St. Mark parish and school. Their love for Catholic education was great, but their love for faith in God and their love of family was greater. As I had a chance to visit with them both this week, I entered their home, three houses south of school, that was filled with food, family and friends, supporting them, remembering with them, and praying for them as they became stronger in their faith. Doug and Julie both wanted to convey their appreciation for the outpouring of support, love and prayers that everyone has shown to them and their family.

But as I walked back to school from the Opel's house, I stopped and looked back at all of the cars parked outside their home, all of the people coming in and out of their house, all of the sounds of memories being shared, all of the tears that were cried, and I truly felt God was with them. I felt the strong faith as I spoke with Doug about the memories we shared of Meredith as a middle school student at St. Mark. I cried as I had no words to say that would comfort him, just prayers for their family. I felt the presence of God in their house. I knew He was with them during their time of mourning.

Love your children. Love your family. Love your God. Love. Bring peace to your home. Bring peace to your community. Bring peace to our world. Bring Peace. Pray in thanksgiving. Pray in forgiveness. Pray in intercession for others. Pray. If we will all love and pray more, we will bring peace.

The showing for Mallory and Meredith Opel is today (Friday) at Roncalli High School from 3:00pm until 8:00pm. The funeral Mass will be on this Saturday morning at 10:00am in the Roncalli Gym. Please keep the Opel family, and all families that have lost loved ones, in your prayers. Have a good weekend and we will see you at Mass with your family.

Thanks and God Bless,

Rusty Albertson
Principal
St. Mark Catholic School

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity"

Funeral Meal for Opel Family

As you know by now the Opel family of St. Mark had a tragedy in their family.

St. Mark Catholic School and Parish have been asked to help with the meal after the funeral. The attendance at this meal is expected to be around 500, so much food is needed.

We have been asked to provide salads and sides (*NO GREEN BEANS*) for the meal. ALL food should be brought in throw away containers or dishes you do not want back. **NO CONTAINERS WILL BE RETURNED.**

Food should be brought to Roncalli High School on Saturday between the hours of 9:30 – 11am. Enter door #10. If your food is to remain warm, it will be placed in a warmer, thus if it should be kept cool, it will be kept cool.

We have also been asked to provide assistance in the kitchen before the meal, during the meal and after the meal. The shifts are 9:30 – 11:00 am, 11:00 – 1pm, and 1-3 pm. They are asking for 3 or 4 for each shift.

We do not need to be contacted if you are providing food. Just bring it. Let's show the Opel's the St. Mark support that so many people know us by.

Whatever help or food items you can provide will be very appreciated!

If there are any questions, you can contact Sally Meyer @317-509-0191 or Ann Berkemeier @317-260-8034

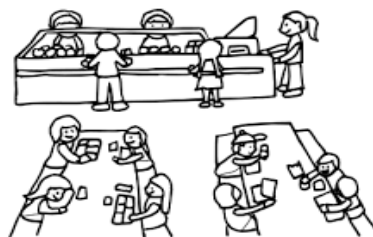
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

December	6	Wednesday	Christmas Musical (Gr. K-5, Jr. High Band) Church, 7:00 pm
	8	Friday	All School Mass/Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Church, 8:15 am
	13	Wednesday	Dine Out Night at Chipotle, 4:00-8:00 pm
	18-19	Mon, Tues	Santa Shop
	21	Thursday	End of 2nd Quarter
	21	Thursday	Pre-K Christmas Musical, Church, 11:00 am
	21	Thursday	Staff Development, Students Dismissed at 1:00 (NO AFTERCARE)
December 21 - January 7			Christmas Break - No School

FROM THE CAFETERIA

Lunch Menu - Week of December 4 thru 8



Monday	Cheesy Ketchupy Beef Burger, Hamburger Bun and French Fries
Tuesday	PK-1 Spooky Shaped Chicken Nuggets; 2-8 Golden/Hot & Spicy Chicken Tenders; All Rotini Pasta, Marinara Sauce, Broccoli and Mozzarella Cheese
Wednesday	Pork Sausage, Pancakes and Sweet Cooked Carrots
Thursday	Chicken Taco, Tortilla, Rice Pilaf and Pepper Medley
Friday	Pepperoni Pizza Ripper (chicken pepperoni), Roasted Zucchini, Kid's Snack Mix

CALLING ALL ST. MARK BAKERS!



The St. Mark Service Club is sponsoring a Bake Sale after the Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 6.

Please send your favorite baked item (homemade or store bought) to school on Wednesday, December 6, 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 Saint Mark Service Club.

Thank you for helping!



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town...



December 18 and 19th

Our 8th grade class hosts a Santa Shop fundraiser to help raise money for their 8th grade class trip. The Santa Shop is set up **during the school day** in Room 11 and has affordable gifts **for students to purchase** for their family. Cost of items could range from .50 cents to \$5.00 per item.. ***If you would like your child to "shop", please send money with them in an envelope that has their name, class, amount enclosed, who they should purchase gifts for and "Santa Shop" written on the outside of the envelope.***

You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is comin' to town
He's making a list and checking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is comin' to town

CONTINUING FUNDRAISERS



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. You will need your Kroger Plus Card Number.



Box Tops

Please place Box Tops in the collection boxes in the church narthex or school entrance.



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! Here are some of the brands that can be redeemed for points:

Just turn your coke reward products into Mrs. Leszcynski in the office.



CYO SPORTS



Event	Day of Week	Opponent	Time, Location
December 1 - 8			
56B Boys BB	Saturday (12/2)	St. Roch	10:00, St. Mark
56C Boys BB	Saturday (12/2)	St. Roch	11:00, St. Mark
4 Boys BB	Saturday (12/2)	St. Roch	12:00, St. Mark
Cadet Boys BB	Saturday (12/2)	St. Susanna	2:00, St. Susanna

St. Mark Wrestling Registration



Registration for boy's wrestling is now underway. St. Mark wrestling is open to all Parish boys in grades K-8. The CYO team registration deadline is December 27 and we need to get a team count as soon as possible. All K-8 wrestlers must register using the CYO website no later than December 20. A CYO physical exam is required for grades 5-8 and forms are available in the church narthex, parish office, school office, and the school and parish web site. To register for wrestling, go to www.cyoarchindy.org. Follow the "Register Child" link and complete the information requested. Please contact Patrick Collier at collierfamily8@att.net for more information.

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

- SMAC President ~ Andy Swiezy at the following email:
andyswiezy83@gmail.com
- SMAC Athletic Director ~ Kris Able at the following email:
kable@stmarkindy.org.

RONCALLI REBEL NEWS



Reminder: Roncalli High School Application

Roncalli is excited to welcome the Class of 2022 next fall!

As a reminder, the Application for Admission is now available online at www.roncalli.org. To access the registration site, please click the text that reads "Complete Admission Application Online" underneath the scrolling photos. Once the application is complete and the \$100 registration fee is received, you may continue the registration process. For those who have not been in a South Deanery Catholic grade school for grades seven and eight, those next steps will include scheduling an admissions interview for Saturday, January 20 (limited space available). For all others, it will be scheduling your appointment to meet with your student's counselor to create their freshman year schedule.

Please contact Director of Admissions Allie Ross at aross@roncalli.org or (317) 787-8277, ext. 243 with any questions.

RONCALLI WRESTLING: CYO WINTER BREAK CLINIC

Rebel Wrestling Foundation is hosting it's 2nd Annual CYO Winter Break Wrestling Clinic at Roncalli High School Wrestling Facility. RHS Head Coach Wade McClurg, the RHS wrestling staff, and RHS wrestling team, will be teaching the wrestling techniques that are taught in the RHS workouts. These are the skills that will build Roncalli Wrestling champions.

- Cost: \$20 cash or check to RWF
- Dates: Tuesday December 26th & Wednesday December 27th
- Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm
- Ages: Grades K-8

RONCALLI REBEL SOFTBALL

IHSAA State Champions
1999, 2001, 2011

Marion County Champions
2009, 2013, 2015

Winter Skills Camp—December 27 & 28

Grades 1-4, 9am-10:30am

Grades 5-8, 11am-12:30pm

Location: RHS Bubble Gym

Cost: \$40

Workout items: tennis shoes, glove, bat (if you own one)

Skills: Throwing, fielding, communication, hitting, conditioning

Please detach and send \$40 to:

Roncalli High School

Attn: David Lauck

3300 Prague Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

Please return by Friday, December 22—**may also register at the door**

Contact me if you have questions: dlauck@roncalli.org or 317-513-1567

Student-athlete information sheet

Name:

Grade:

Shirt size: (youth S-M-L—adult S-M-L)

Grade School:

Phone Number:

Contact Email: