



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

Dear Parents,

Traditionally on the Friday Bridge before Thanksgiving, I share with you what I am thankful for. While this is not an all-encompassing list of things, I hope that it sparks a bit of "Thankfulness" in all of us.

I am thankful for pets. While my wife may often hear me complain that pets should be left outside (like in the olden days), I feel that pets serve a big purpose in many people's lives. Pets give companionship to those that may not have it in any other form. Pets don't talk back, don't require you to buy them the latest gadget, but they do provide friendship, kindness and love to those that care for them. Growing up on a farm, our pets slept outside, or in the garage when it was very cold. They only got to come into the house for special occasions, and they were great at helping to keep the rodent population in check. I am thankful for pets.

I am thankful for the truth. I know that sounds like a very obtainable characteristic, but you will be amazed how rare the truth is prevalent. I think if more people, including myself, were more truthful with themselves, the world would be a much better place. Truth in conversation, truth in actions, truth in relationships, truth to the person in the mirror, and truthful to our God. John 8:32 says "Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." I would much rather be told the truth, even if it is not what I want to hear, than to be lied to. I am thankful for the truth.

I am thankful for "Meat and Potatoes". Not the kind you eat, but for the conversations that I have with people that are straight forward, to the point, just the "Meat and Potatoes". As I get older I figure I have less and less time on this earth, so my minutes are getting less and less and their importance are getting more and more. Sometimes while I am talking to a stranger, I just want to scream out "JUST GET TO THE POINT!" but I do not, as I know that would be rude. Don't get me wrong, I love a good story, but my attention span is more suited to watch movie trailers, than to watch the entire movie. I am thankful for "Meat and Potatoes".

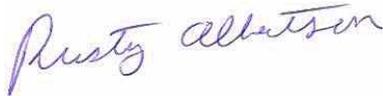
I am thankful for my faith. Growing up a life long Catholic, religion was not a choice. All eight of my family members loaded up in one car (usually a station wagon) and attended Mass every Sunday morning. There was no going to a "later Mass with our friends", no excuses of staying in bed because we were too tired, no missing Mass and instead watching Mass on channel 4 at 7:30am (Dad said it was hard to get the body of Christ through that TV screen!). But faith, has always been an option. It is a personal choice that we make to have a relationship with an unseen God, and his only Son. My faith is what keeps me centered, keeps me humbled, and keeps me doing God's work. I am thankful for my faith.

I am thankful for my family. As my parents began our family in 1956, they probably never realized what a positive influence they have been to so many people. Their example of what a marriage should look like, still goes on after 61 years. I am thankful for our four children, Dexter, Damon, Grace and Sophie. I am very thankful for my beautiful bride of 28+ years, Julie, and all she has endured (in a loving way) with me as her husband. I am thankful for my St. Mark Catholic School family. 45 staff members, 368 students, and many

parents and parishioners. The love that is given to me each day is invaluable to my ability to lead our school in a positive, Christ-centered, way.

So as Thanksgiving approaches and I think of a new way to cook our turkey, I hope that you can reflect on what things in your life you are thankful for. While we often look at material things that we receive, it is the relationships that we make with others that gives us long-lasting enjoyment and happiness. I hope you have a great Thanksgiving break next week and that God Blesses you with his love and Grace. Have a good weekend and we will see you at Mass.

Thanks and God Bless,



Rusty Albertson
Principal
St. Mark Catholic School
"Come Grow in Faith"

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"

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

November	20	Monday	Pick Up Texas Roadhouse Rolls order, Room 11 in school building, 3:00-6:00 pm
	21	Tuesday	Thanksgiving All-School Mass-Church, 9:00 am
	21	Tuesday	Staff Development-Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm (No After Care)
	22-24		Thanksgiving Break, No School
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
	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 -			Christmas Break - No School
January 7			



Don't Miss

- What: Texas Roadhouse Rolls order pick up
- When: Monday, November 20, 2017 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm
- Where: Room 11 (next to school office) in school building - you may enter through Door 2 (this door faces Edgewood Avenue)



St. Mark Parish News



Save the Date

The Annual St. Mark Christmas Lunch will be in Schafer Hall on Friday, December 1st at 11:30.

Please join us for a delicious buffet lunch with dessert and drinks. Anyone 18+ is invited and if you wish, bring a NEW unwrapped toy for St. Philip Neri's Christmas Store. There will be entertainment by St. Mark students and door prizes. The cost is \$8 and you can register at the Parish Office. Seating will be limited to 200 so don't delay !

FROM THE CAFETERIA

Lunch Menu - Week of November 20 thru 21

Monday Turkey in Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll and Spiced Cookie
Tuesday Ham & Cheese Rippers, Broccoli and Sun Chips (**1:00 Dismissal-No Aftercare**)
Wednesday **No School - Thanksgiving Break**



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town...
to St. Mark that is!



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

<u>Event</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time, Location</u>
November 17 - 24			
4 Boys BB	Sunday (11/19)	Nativity	3:30, St. Mark

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.

Jr. Lady Rebel Basketball

General Information Registration will be Sunday, November 19, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Roncalli cafeteria. Cost is \$50 per player (\$60 if you need jersey). If you have questions, contact Coach Mac at (317) 371-4010 or at one of her email addresses; dmccclanahan@msdpt.k12.in.us or dfmccclanahan@sbcglobal.net.