

**Volume 5, Issue 17—
December 17, 2020
Early Edition**



Letter from the Pastor

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Jn1:14

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mark's,

What a joy it is to celebrate the miracle of the baby Jesus with each one of you this Christmas, and always!

We have been exploring all the ways Jesus shares His love with us, especially through His Real Presence in the Eucharist this year, with our Consecration to the Eucharist pastoral year. On Christmas, we celebrate Jesus's humility, becoming man, born of the virgin Mary in poverty (a stable), so that we might be saved through his Passion, death and Resurrection. We accept this saving mystery of God-with-us (Emmanuel) every time we receive the Eucharist, because God is substantially present in Holy Communion. He will never leave us orphaned, but will care and nourish us with himself. Thanks be to God!

On behalf of all the St. Mark's clergy and parish staff, MERRY CHRISTMAS! Have a blessed, safe, and healthy Christmas vacation and New Year.

May the light of Christ continue to shine into the future through our children.

Father Ben Uhlenkott, Pastor



2020 Christmas Concert!

Please enjoy our annual [Christmas Concert](#) by downloading from the attached Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/21e6x68zmb40q84/St%20Marks%20Christmas%20Program%202020.mp4?dl=0>

Letter from the Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,

Reflecting on our first semester, I am reminded of one of my favorite bible verses, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. Changing the I to a We truly summarizes our first 18 weeks together at St. Mark's Catholic School. By the grace of God and your hard work and support, we accomplished something wonderful.



Please be sure to read my letter sent out this afternoon regarding schedule changes for next semester. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

I would like to sincerely wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

Peace,

Donna Gordon



THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS A LOT OF INFORMATION, AND THE LENGTH OF THE NEWSLETTER CAUSES IT TO BE TRUNCATED.

LOOK FOR THE LINK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EMAIL THAT SAYS "VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE" TO EXPAND THE EMAIL, OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE.

COVID News

Plans for January Return to School

We have considered many factors and decided on the following plan for our return after Christmas.

- For the first week after Christmas Break (1/5-1/8), any students that have had high exposure potential during Christmas break (airplane travel, travel to a hotspot, gathering with people outside of your immediate household without practicing the 3Ws, etc.) are asked to remain home during this period.
- Any students who have had no/low exposure are welcome to come to school to attend classes with their teacher. Parents may also choose to keep their child(ren) home during this week. The expectation is that students will be at school for the entire day, as usual. Please choose one option, not a combination of both. It is challenging for the teachers to

- plan for fluctuating attendance.
- Any student experiencing any illness symptoms must stay home per our usual protocols.

Quarantine Guidelines

With support from Father Ben and our School Board, we will continue to require a 14 day quarantine for students who have close contact (less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes) with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

When the number of cases in Ada county begin to trend downward, we will revisit this decision to determine if we will adopt a shorter quarantine time.

Attached is the **newly released quarantine information from CDH**. The 14 day quarantine is still considered the best practice and remains the safest way to avoid spreading this virus.

Weekly Level Report

We have created a spreadsheet with weekly updates of COVID information for St. Mark's School, which will be updated automatically with new information. **Click here** to view the spreadsheet. It is also available for viewing on our website under the COVID Updates/Resources tab.

Let's all continue to practice the 3 W's

wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear your mask

Avoid social gatherings because, as you have undoubtedly read in the media, the coronavirus is very active and case counts are growing once again in Idaho and Ada County.

Please make sure that your student brings a couple of masks to school each day in case the elastic breaks or one gets dirty. The extra mask should be in a ziploc bag and placed in their backpack. Due to recent generous donations, we have a stock of masks in case students break a mask during the day.



If your child is wearing a fabric mask, please make sure that you are washing it at least a couple of times per week to kill bacteria and germs that may be present.

Please check your children for COVID symptoms before bringing them to school in the morning. **Click here for Checklist.**

Decision Making Trees - What if I'm Exposed to COVID

Parents please read and become familiar with the links below to evaluate if you should send your child to school:

1. **Guidance on COVID Exposure** - For Schools
2. **Illness Decision Tree for Students** - Newly Updated for Schools



Our students participated in an Advent Retreat on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to Katie Stroschein, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Gordon, Fr. Ben, Fr. Vitalis, Deacon Chris Privon, Tim Segert, John Tiedeman, Mrs. Lankford, Mrs. Godfrey and the servers from 6th & 8th grades for bringing this experience to our student body.

Lion Pride Recognition



LionPRIDE

Practice
MAKES
Saints

	CLASSROOM	HALLWAYS	LUNCH ROOM	PLAYGROUND	BATHROOMS	CHURCH
P PERSEVERANCE <i>Every Day - Every Time</i>	Be Prepared Be On Time Be On Task Be Present	Be Timely Be Courteous Model Good Behavior Walk Slowly	Use Your Manners Be Patient Wait to be Excused	Be Safe Obey the Rules Play Fair Share Space & Equipment Be a Good Sport	Throw Away Trash Keep it Clean Flush Toilet Wash Hands	Be Engaged Pray, Not Play Behave Appropriately
R RESPECT <i>Others, Self & Property</i>	Be Positive Listen to Others Be Prompt Follow Dress Code Care for School Property	Be Quiet Keep Your Hands to Yourself Keep Clean	Clean up Messes Share Space Eat Only Your Food Keep Voices Low Keep your Hands to Yourself	Use Kind Words Use Equipment as Intended Keep Your Hands to Yourself	Give Others Privacy Use Appropriate Volume	Listen Attentively Enter and Leave Quietly Treat Church Materials with Care
I INTEGRITY <i>Honesty in All You Do</i>	Be Honest Be Accountable Do Your Own Work Set & Meet Goals Honor Due Dates	Do the Right Thing Respect Posters & Displays	Use Manners Don't Be Wasteful Pay for Purchases	Notify Staff if Problems Arise Follow Staff Directions	Return to Class Promptly & Quietly Report any Inappropriate Behavior Use at Appropriate Times	Be Kind Be on Time
D DISCIPLINE <i>Following Jesus' Example</i>	Support Others Cooperate with Others Be Honest Share Christ's Love	Help Others in Need Say Thank You to Our Custodians	Sit by Those Sitting Alone Engage in Appropriate Conversations	Encourage Others to be Kind Be Inclusive Lead by Example Help Others When Needed	Use Only as Needed Report Supply Shortages Clean Up After Yourself	Be Revereant Actively Participate Be Involved Show Appreciation
E EXCELLENCE <i>Strive for Success</i>	Do Your Very Best Work Challenge Yourself Learn Beyond the Classroom Ask Questions	Set a Good Example Greet People Politely	Follow Cafeteria Rules Use an Inside Voice	Solve Issues in a Peaceful Manner Line Up on Time Stay in Assigned Areas	Use During Non-Instructional Times Report Problems to an Adult	Be the Best Version of Yourself Follow Dress Code for Mass

SAINT MARK'S
-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS-

Congratulations to this week's winners:

Parker A, Gia G, Liam D, Colin C, Ryker H

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 21 - Monday, January 4

Christmas and New Year's Break

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 5

School Resumes

Wednesday, January 6

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass

Friday, January 8

8:30 Late Start

Spirit Day

Home & School

WE NEED YOU!!! Do you like to plan fun and large events? How would you like to be part of the auction for next year? We are in need of 2 people who are interested in organizing the St. Mark's school auction for the fall of 2021. We have some amazing people who have worked on all aspects of the auction who are willing to continue helping out next year. At this point, we need two leaders. We can put you in touch with the team from this

year and last year to help you get started and mentor you along the way.
If you are interested, please let Andrea Dunlap know (208-871-3896
or homeandschool@stmarksschoolboise.com)



Artwork by Maitane Lete, 5th grade



Artwork by Joey Klaas, 7th grade

Dear Parents,

December 2020

On behalf of St. Mark's School we wish you and your family a blessed,
and Christ-filled Christmas and New Year holiday.

We also take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to send
your child(ren) to St. Mark's. We appreciate the sacrifices that you
make to do this. In knowing that, we continue to strive to make our
St. Mark's Community one that supports your family goals.

May God bless you & your family,

Fr. Ben Uhlenkott
Pastor

Donna Gordon
Principal

Andrea Dunlap
President, Home & School

Derek Janzen
President, School Board

Jason Smith
President, Foundation

Merry
Christmas



Artwork by Connor Deeds, Kindergarten

Happy
New Year

Congratulations to the Home & School Christmas Card Art Contest, Connor Deeds in K-2 category, Maitane Lete in 3-5 group and Joey Klaas in Grades 6-8 You can enjoy their art above. Thank you to all the students who entered, Home & School enjoyed looking at all the drawings.

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday ()—
Tuesday ()—
Wednesday ()—
Thursday ()—
Friday ()—

St. Mark's offers a healthy, delicious hot lunch to students and staff EVERY FULL DAY OF SCHOOL!

4 LUNCHROOM HELPERS ARE NEEDED EACH DAY from 10:45-12:30 to load lunches on to trays and deliver the trays to the classrooms. Volunteers are given a free lunch.

Please call (208) 375-6654 or email the School Office to volunteer.

Daily Lunch Schedule: 11:15 a.m. (PS-2); 11:35 a.m. (3-5); 12:00 p.m. (6-8)



News

Morning Drop Off Zones for Next Week After 7:45 a.m.

6th grade - Auditorium

3rd grade - Gymnasium

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th & 8th grades - Playground

On Fridays after 8:00 a.m. when Mass Choir is practicing in Auditorium, Grade assigned to Auditorium will report to Zone 7 on the playground.

Christmas Break is Friday, December 18
through Monday, January 4.
School resumes on Tuesday, January 5.

CORRECTION OF CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

December 24th (Christmas Eve): 4:00 p.m. (live streamed), 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

December 25th (Christmas Day): 12:00 a.m. (live streamed), 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m (live streamed).

Dear Friends of St. Mark's School Foundation,

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, we ask that you to remember the works of St. Mark's Catholic School and its mission to develop disciples of Christ. A Catholic education provides an enriching experience for students and a

Catholic education at St. Mark's engages the students in a community that fosters academic excellence rooted in the Catholic faith and Christian values.

The Foundation's mission is to provide accessibility to a quality Catholic education to students and families that would not otherwise be able to attend our school. This mission wouldn't be possible without support from generous donors like you.

Financial accessibility remains an important goal for the school. This year, the request for tuition assistance has increased dramatically. Contributions to the Foundation will help to keep the quality of St. Mark's education within access to all who wish to enroll. The Foundation board would like to extend our thanks to the many donors that make this assistance possible.

We hope to see you all at the annual golf tournament in late Spring 2021 (details forthcoming).

Unless otherwise directed, all donations are invested in perpetuity and managed as part of the restricted endowment fund with the earnings distributed to the School in accordance with the Foundation bylaws.

Please consider contributing to St. Mark's School Foundation this season. There are three ways to give:

1. **Gifts may be returned with the attached contribution form**
2. Set up one-time or recurring contributions via credit card or bank account draft by visiting www.stmarksboise.com/smkfoundation.
3. **AmazonSmile** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice (at not cost to you). Steps to support St. Mark's School Foundation:

- a. go to smile.amazon.com from a web browser
- b. Choose your charity. Search for: **St Marks School Foundation Inc**
The search result should include the location of the charity: Boise, ID

Notes:

- a. Bookmark the page to make it easy to find. I've added mine to the bookmarks bar to make it super easy.
- b. Purchases made via the Amazon mobile app are not eligible for the smile program. However, you can browse items and put those items into a shopping cart via the mobile app. Then go to a web browser, log into your smile.amazon.com account, and place your order.

Thank you for your continued support. May your Christmas season be filled with blessings and joy.

Greg Daggett & The St. Mark's School Foundation Board



Thank you to our 2nd grade parents who sponsored a Treat Cart full on goodies for our staff on Tuesday.

View the **January 2021 Monthly Calendar** here. Note the weekly calendar change that begins on Friday, January 22.

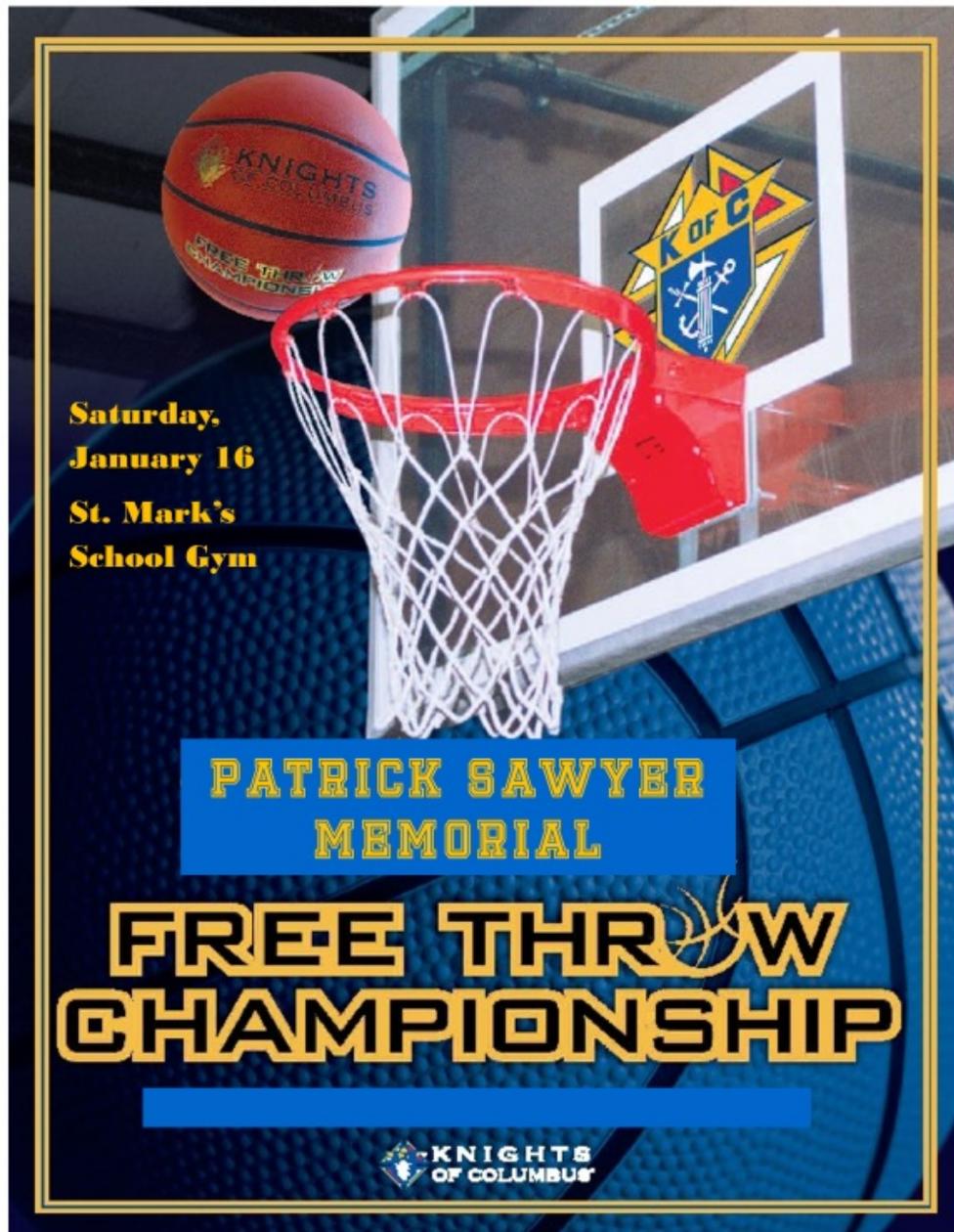
Attached is the **January 2021 Lunch Menu**. Beginning January 22, we will not be serving lunches on Fridays.

Winter Uniform Sale - coming in January!

If your child has grown out of their uniform, plan to restock January 23rd.

Place: St. Mark's School Gym

Please wear a mask and to be socially distanced, we will only be allowing 10 persons in the gym at a time.



[Click here](#) to register for your gym time
[Click here](#) for the registration form to bring with you to gym

Event will be held on Saturday, January 16 in St. Mark's School Gym. Following COVID protocol, 2 spaces are available every 15 minutes between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - Noon and masks must be worn. Please park in the west parking lot and you will receive a phone call when you are invited to enter the gym. One parent will be allowed in the school with each shooter. Contact Ken Rivas at 208-850-9334 with questions.



BOX TOPS

JANUARY 2021

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Congratulations to this week's BK Knights of the Week!

Maddie Nunez (St. Mark's graduate) - Generosity

Maddie is a wonderful student. She is always the first to volunteer when I ask and many times offers to help before I ask! I appreciate her always willing to help!

Ella Cunningham (St. Mark's graduate) - Community

Ella picks up on what is needed and gets to it. Need a discussion started? Done. Need a door held open? Done. Need the desks sprayed

clean? Done. She's a blessing to the school.

Jesse Risch (St. Mark's graduate) - Safe and Caring Place

Jesse is such a great mentor and voice of calm when things go awry. She was there to comfort and console a teammate who stumbled at a recent competition.

TVCS Events/Sports

Preschool Happenings





Preschool serenaded Mrs. Gordon and the School Office with
☐ Christmas Caroling! ☐



Church Connection

If you would like to receive the Parish Newsletter [text](#)
BOISESTMARKSNEWS to 42828 to sign up OR [Click here](#) to sign up.

[Click here to upload the Parish Bulletin](#)



St. Mark's Christmas Mass Times

December 24th

4:00pm*

6:00pm

8:00pm

*live streamed

December 25th

12:00am*

8:00am

10:00am*

*live streamed

Notes from the Nurse

Wishing you **PEACE** and **HOPE** this Christmas

It's no secret that the sudden onset of COVID-19, has become the central focus of the whole world, making many



Saint Alphonsus
SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

fear the uncertainty of what's ahead.

We invite you to remember the words of Psalm 46:1-7 (New International Version):

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalms 46: 1-7

It's necessary to take time to be real about the emotions you're feeling — fear, anxiety, stress, confusion — but remember where you find your hope during times of uncertainty. We pray you find comfort in God's presence today, remembering He has complete control and He is good!!

May God's Richest Blessings Be Yours This Christmas and New Year!

~ Love, the St. Alphonsus School Health Nurses ~

Saint Alphonsus School Health Program

Through the St. Alphonsus School Health Program, Mrs. Sup, our school nurse, is at St. Mark's on Thursdays and Mrs. Placido, CNA, SASHP Assistant is here on Tuesdays.

Notes from the Counselor

There are many ways to celebrate the coming of Christmas and Christmas itself. Children love to anticipate. As Catholics we celebrate Advent and it's a wonderful way for children to prepare for the coming of Christ. Whether it's filling an empty manger with straw, lighting Advent candles, cutting out Old Testament symbols to decorate a Jesse tree, or reading Bible stories to ready ourselves, all these traditions can help keep the true meaning of Christmas front and center.

This year we have almost a full week off of school before Christmas day. It gives us a wonderful amount of time to make sure our focus is how we would like it and make some shifts if we feel like it's not quite where we want it to be. Maybe even add in a couple more activities such as weekday Masses, fasting and other forms of penance like prayer and almsgiving.

Once Christmas day is over it's easy to think the celebration is over. It is just as important to celebrate during the Christmas season as it is to prepare for Christ during Advent. This may be a good year to start a new tradition or two.

Enjoy your Christmas break! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Joe Lipetzky Psy.D.
Ms. Jen Boehm. LCPC

Dr. Joe Lipetzky, our school psychologist, is at St. Mark's on Monday and Friday mornings.
Mrs. Jen Boehm, our school counselor, is at St. Mark's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.