



St. Mark's Catholic School Vision

St Mark's Catholic School is dedicated to educating student disciples in body, mind and spirit, through the collaboration of families, community and the Church.

Our Mission

St. Mark's Catholic School is a ministry of St. Mark's Catholic Community that fosters academic excellence, rooted in the Catholic faith, and Christian values.

Letter from our Pastor

Dear Families and Friends of St. Mark's,

People who have traveled to the Holy Land have often described their pilgrimage as “one of the most spiritual experiences that they have ever had.” This is what the holy Season of Advent offers us, an opportunity to travel spiritually back in time to the place where our Lord chose to dwell among us. Through the vivid examples of Sacred Scripture the Church offers us, we can well imagine and even see the places where Jesus had been, with “spiritual eyes.” In Nazareth, I witness where the Annunciation took place. In Bethlehem, I marvel at where Jesus was born. This whole idea of pilgrimage, of searching for and finding God through the power of grace, is at the heart of Advent's readings. In the letter of St. James, we are told to be patient in our search for the Lord and to have a strong spiritual heart that yearns for the love of God. In Matthew's gospel, we hear about John the Baptist's search for the Messiah. Jesus says: *“Tell John what you see. The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised,”* He was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy regarding Himself.

When the Son of God comes to us this Christmas, it is quite possible to have the best spiritual experience of our lives. As the Book of Isaiah tells us, it can be awesome—the desert will rejoice, the flowers will sing their song of praise to the glory of God.

As we begin the third week of Advent, we too are called to continue our pilgrimage towards Christmas, to search for and await with longing the coming of the Lord. *But do we see the Lord coming to us? When I am out shopping at the mall for Christmas gifts or collecting food and clothing for the poor as gifts... As my family and friends reach out and love me...As I reach out with kindness to the people at my work and in my home...* Whatever the case, during the time that remains of Advent, we are called to journey towards God, and to see God coming to us, God who is all around us and always coming to us daily. We are invited to have the best spiritual experience of our lives this coming Christmas. In this way, we will come face to face with the love of God in Jesus. So, let each one of us rededicate ourselves to this spiritual journey in



preparation for Christmas.

With prayers and gratitude,

Fr. Paul

Letter from our Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy Advent season! Your children have been very busy completing the second quarter by taking semester exams, presenting final projects, performing in a joyful Christmas concert, wrapping up AR quizzes to meet reading goals, celebrating Las Posadas in Spanish class, preparing special gifts for Christmas, and so much more. Report cards will be posted in FACTS the Friday we return to school, January 12, 2024.



Next week, our last day will be a noon dismissal on Thursday, the 21st. Lunch will not be served, and Homework Club will not be available. Chick-fil-A orders will be delivered to students who ordered a meal, as they depart for the Christmas Break.

Reflecting on 2023, I appreciate how blessed I am to be the principal of St. Mark's. The joy your children bring to the school, your spirit of volunteerism, the dedication of our faculty and staff, the support of our parish, and the countless Christ-like efforts made by this community every day make being your principal an honor. May your family have a beautiful Christmas and the most blessed 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.

Student Spotlight



Lucas loves to volunteer with St Vincent de Paul and he works the Christmas Toy Shop.



2nd & 3rd grade Girl Scout Troop 945 learned about St. Luke's Mobile Care and the health services they provide to local students. Thank you to Mrs. Huttash, CNP, Sawyer's mom, who works with the care unit, for sharing information with the girls.



Lion Pride Recognition



LionPRIDE

Practice
MAKES
Saints

	CLASSROOM	HALLWAYS	LUNCH ROOM	PLAYGROUND	BATHROOMS	CHURCH
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
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
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
DISCIPLESHIP <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 Reverent Actively Participate Be Involved Show Appreciation
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 SCHOOL-

Congratulations to this week's winners:

Connor L, Zoe K, Halle R, Patrick N, Easton B, Jaxson S, Tyus R, Jared T, Ben G

Weekly Calendar

Friday, December 15

7:00-9:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade TVCS Dance @ Sacred Heart

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Bastian's 5th grade

Thursday, December 21

End of First Semester - Noon Dismissal (beginning of Christmas Break-Monday, January 8)

Friday, December 22

Teacher In-Service - No School

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Mrs. Whitescarver's Birthday

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Christmas Mass: 10: 00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 26

Mrs. Jankowski's Birthday

Friday, December 29

Mrs. Fuchs' Birthday

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year

Monday, January 8

Teacher Inservice - No School

5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Home & School Meeting

Tuesday, January 9

School Resumes

Home & School

St Mark's Community Night at Panera made \$349.39! Great job St. Mark's families!

**Congratulations to this year's H&S Christmas
Card Art Contest winners:**

K-2 - Adrean D.

3-5 - Peter B.

6-8 - Maitane L.

Each student won a set of greeting cards
featuring their art.



**Great
Stocking
Stuffer**



ST MARK'S SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 -- 7:10PM

Kansas City Mavericks @ Idaho Steelheads

Idaho Central Arena, 233 S Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

**DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$20 BUYS YOUR TICKET AND
DINNER**

(Double R Ranch Hot Dog, bag of Lay's Chips and a small Pepsi product)

** to receive your food voucher, please visit the Information Booth behind section 117**

FOR EVERY TICKET PURCHASED THROUGH THIS LINK, \$5 WILL GO DIRECTLY BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL!

TO PLACE AN ORDER:

Go to: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/stmarks>

CLICK "GET TICKETS" AND SELECT YOUR SEATS

CLICK "CONTINUE" AND ENTER YOUR CONTACT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

YOU WILL BE SENT INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACCESS YOUR TICKETS THROUGH IDAHO CENTRAL ARENA'S
TICKETMASTER ACCOUNT MANAGER

*****TICKET ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT OR SUBJECT TO
AVAILABILITY*****

KARL WINKS 208-472-3363 KARL@IDAHOSTEELHEADS.COM

Click here to order your tickets
or click on the flyer



[Click here](https://stmarksschool.schoolauction.net/bloom) to purchase your tickets



BLOOM IN LOVE

RAFFLE TICKETS



\$ 6.00 EACH OR \$25.00 FOR 5 TICKETS*

*5 TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY SAME PARTY TO QUALIFY FOR DISCOUNTED PER TICKET PRICE

DRAWING TO BE HELD FEBURARY 10, 2024

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. MARKS SCHOOL BY PURCHASING A RAFFLE TICKET

RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE: ESPRESSO MAKER

2ND PLACE – \$200 GIFT CARD TO RUTH'S CHRIS STEAKHOUSE

3RD PLACE- \$100 AMAZON GIFT CARD

STUDENTS THAT SELL THE MOST TICKETS:

1ST PLACE – APPLE AIRPODS GENERATION 3

2ND PLACE – \$100 AMAZON GIFT CARD

3RD PLACE – 2 TICKETS TO JUMPTIME

CLASS THAT SELLS THE MOST TICKETS:

1ST PLACE – PIZZA PARTY FOR THE ENTIRE CLASS

ANY STUDENT WHO SELLS **\$100** OR MORE IN RAFFLE TICKETS WILL EARN A CAN OF SILLY STRING TO SPRAY PRINCIPAL GORDON.

ALL SALES ARE FINAL. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED AFTER THE 2-10-2024 DRAWING. WINNER DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN. PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED TICKETS AND MONEY TO THE FRONT OFFICE. IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL TICKETS, PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING SHEET. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RAFFLE MAY BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://STMARKSSCHOOL.SCHOLAUCTION.NET/BLOOM/](https://stmarksschool.schoolauction.net/bloom/)

It's Raffle Ticket time. [Click here](#) to print your tickets.

Volunteer Opportunities

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (18)—Bauer

Tuesday (19)—Cavazos, Chavier

Wednesday (20)—LaMott, Gorney, Binns, Bailey

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 10:45-12:45 to serve lunches and clean tables in the lunchroom. 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



Thank you to Mrs. Cooper, our students and teachers in Grades K-5, St. Mark's School Choir and our Advanced Orchestra for sharing their talents with us at Monday night's Music Program and bringing Christmas Cheer to this Holiday Season. Thank you to the Tverdy family for engineering the sound and recording the concert.

The link for the St. Mark's School Christmas Music Program is now on our website at www.stmarksboise.com

Our students in grades K-7 have made Christmas ornaments in Art Class using a process called Hydro Dipping.

The sale of these ornaments help support our art program. The cost is \$5.00 per ornament. This year's ornament includes a light to place inside the ornament to light up your tree!



Contact Mrs. Czarniecki if you would like to purchase your child's ornament. aczarniecki@stmarksschoolboise.com

Advent Book Challenge 2023/2024

Directions: Over the rest of Advent and the Christmas season, keep reading. If you complete 5 or more of the tasks below, submit your sheet to Mrs. Rosania to be entered for a prize drawing when you return from Christmas break. *Your parent must sign off.* Last day for submissions is January 15 by 3pm.

- Read while listening to music.
- Read to your pet or favorite stuffie.
- Read a nonfiction book.
- Read a book while watching it snow (real or on TV).
- Eat a Christmas treat while you read.
- Read an e-book.
- Listen to an audio book.
- Read while snuggled in your favorite blanket.
- Read the instructions to a game, then play it.
- Read to a family member or friend over the phone/computer.
- Read in your PJs.
- Read a cereal box.
- Read a recipe, then make it.
- Read to someone older than you.
- Read to someone younger than you.
- Read a genre you've never read.

My name _____ Parent signature _____
My Teacher _____

[Click here](#) to download the Advent Book Challenge form

The Middle School Robotics Class (6th - 8th grades) still has openings for the dates of January 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and February 1. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Christmas Break



School dismisses on Thursday, December 21 at Noon and resumes on Tuesday, January 9.

Congratulations to this week's Knights of the Week!



Calie Aguilera - Academic Excellence (St. Mark's Graduate and BK Freshman)

Calie's active participation ignites a spark among her peers. Her enthusiasm and involvement act as a magnet, encouraging others to participate and contribute their thoughts and ideas. She seems to have an innate ability to bring out the best in her classmates, making her an invaluable asset to the vibrant heartbeat of my freshman group.

TVCS Events/Sports



[Click here](#) for the TVCS athletic schedule.

Dear TVCS Parents,

This Spring, TVCS is happy to offer Boys Lacrosse as an activity. TVCS Lacrosse will be organized by Mr. Jason Smith. It is not a typical TVCS activity. The league is organized through USA Lacrosse.

This is open to 6th through 8th grade boys. Practices will be 3 nights per week from 6:00-8:00 pm. Games will be Saturdays from approximately March 2 - May 18 with bye-weeks over Spring Break.

If interested, please contact Mr. Smith at BK@BlackKnightsLacrosse.org. He will be able to provide you with additional information about registration and answer questions you may have.

Thank you and Go Knights!

BK Lacrosse Flier

Preschool Happenings



Our 7th Grade buddies put on a play about Saints Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe for our preschool group on Thursday. They did a wonderful job! Thank you to our talented 7th graders and to Mrs. Behrend for sharing this blessed event with us. We enjoyed having you.



Church Connection

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



ST. MARK'S CCW

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

**DECEMBER
16TH & 17TH**

AFTER THE 5PM SATURDAY
MASS AND SUNDAY
MORNING MASSES

BAKED GOODS NEEDED

**QUESTIONS?
ANNIE.BOROFF@GMAIL.COM**



4TH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

12/23-5PM

12/24-9AM

THESE TWO MASSES FULFILL YOUR
OBLIGATION FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS MASSES

12/24-4PM

12/24-7PM

12/24-11PM

AKA MIDNIGHT MASS-

NEW TIME,

12/25-10AM

THESE FOUR MASSES FULFILL YOUR
CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION

Notes from the Nurse



Saint Alphonsus
SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM



Christmas To-Do List

- ~~Buy~~ Presents
- Wrap ~~Gifts~~ Someone in a hug
- Send ~~Gifts~~ Peace
- ~~Shop~~ for Food
- ~~See~~ the Lights



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Love: The Saint Alphonsus School Health Program Nurses

Through the St. Alphonsus School Health Program, **Mrs. Bostenero**, RN, BSN, is at St. Mark's on Mondays and Wednesdays, **Mrs. Fuchs**, RN, BSN, is at St. Mark's on Thursdays and **Mrs. Placido**, CNA, SASHP Assistant is here on Tuesdays.

Notes from the Counselor

Hello St. Mark's Families -

One of the things that I continually discuss with students is the idea of having a growth mindset. This is the belief that our mind "grows." We need to believe in our unlimited potential and that hard work will always keep us moving forward. We understand that our brain works like other muscles in our body. With exercise and/or effort, our brain will keep getting stronger, faster and better.

The opposite of a growth mindset is a fixed mindset. This is the belief that people are born a certain way and that they are stuck like that. A fixed mindset does not see that people change and get better.

Examples:

Fixed Mindset: I am not artistic.

Growth Mindset: I have to work hard to do well in Art class.

Fixed Mindset: I cannot do this.

Growth Mindset: I cannot do this, yet.

As you spend some time as a family watching holiday movies over the next few weeks, I invite you to choose one of the suggested growth mindset holiday favorites. See if your child can identify growth mindset and the power of the word “yet.”

Sarah Lynch

St. Mark's School Counselor

10 GROWTH MINDSET HOLIDAY FAMILY MOVIES

MOVIES & TV

- 1 Elliot the Littlest Reindeer (PG)
- 2 Frozen (PG)
- 3 Shalom Sesame: The Missing Menorah (NR)
- 4 Curious George: A Very Monkey Christmas (NR)
- 5 Trolls Holiday (PG)
- 6 KT and Me: A Kwanzaa Family Special (NR)
- 7 Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (G)
- 8 A Charlie Brown Christmas (NR)
- 9 Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey (PG)
- 10 Clifford's Puppy Days: The Big, Big Present/Hanukkah Plunder Blunder (NR)



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Dr. Joe Lipetzky, our school psychologist, is at St. Mark's on Monday and Friday mornings.

Sarah Lynch, our school counselor, is at St. Mark's on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

St. Mark's School | 7503 W. Northview St., Boise, ID 83704

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