



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,



We are all God's children. But are we not sometimes like that child glued to the tasks of daily living and, more often than not, missing the subtle attempts that God makes to get through to us? We become preoccupied with activity, with consumption, with anxiety, even with our struggles or pains, and fail to hear the voice of the Lord calling us to a moment of peace, a period of rest, an opportunity for grace. That's precisely what the season of Advent offers us—sacred days marked out to draw our attention away from the things that drain our life's spiritual energies and towards the life-giving, grace-filled, divine presence that gives our existence lasting meaning.

Matthew's Gospel dramatically thunders out a call to pay attention to the plan of God through the rather radical character of John the Baptist. John emphatically warns of the dangers of inattention to the Divine through an over-preoccupation with the diversions of the worldly— it is a call to repentance. Repentance is itself a call to humility, an opportunity for spiritual transformation. During this Advent time, the excitement of the secular season is re-translated for us religiously by the scripture readings the Church provides for us. The words of the Prophet Isaiah throughout Advent spark an anticipation of great hope in the Messiah-Savior who is to come. St. Paul reinforces and extends Isaiah's Godly vision, calling for harmony among us in the community. Inherent in these divine messages is the mandate that as followers of Christ we are called to "welcome one another"—once again an invitation to humility over self-righteousness. We must remind ourselves time and time again that this is God's work we are about, and God's work is always accompanied by His grace. It is grace that draws us and provides us the wisdom to pull ourselves away from the distractions of the world and towards God. It is grace that gifts us with self-knowledge and its concomitant companion humility. It is grace which allows us to recognize our own need for repentance, and it is grace which implants in us the hope for a world of justice and life without division. Ultimately, it is grace that implants in our hearts a longing for the coming (the Advent) of God's Kingdom at Christmas in its fullness at the end of time.

As we light the second candle of the Advent Wreath let us pray for the grace of the season to attract us to its flame, guiding us to pay closer attention to the call of the Lord and thus live with a deeper sense of meaning, a higher level of compassion, and a world-altering vision of hope. What more could one ask for this coming Christmas?

With prayers and friendship in Jesus,

Fr. Paul

Letter from our Principal



Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We celebrated a beautiful Mass this morning, with the first graders doing an outstanding job reading, greeting, and fully participating in the special Feast day.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped our Spirituality committee provide a wonderful Advent retreat for our students on Wednesday. I wish you all could've experienced the Holy Spirit's presence and witnessed Christ in your children as they prayed together, worked together to provide gifts for those in need, and celebrated the Advent season. Hundreds of lunches and gift bags were donated to area shelters and the Ronald McDonald House. We can't thank you enough for your donations.

Please join us for our annual Christmas concert this Monday (12/11) at 6:30. Families may arrive as early as 5:30, but performing students should be in their assigned seats by 6:15. The concert will be recorded and posted on our website by the end of the week.

As we wind down the second quarter, please check your child's grades in FACTS. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to their teachers to see if there are steps that can be taken to improve their grades.

God bless you all and have a beautiful weekend.

Mrs. 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




Olivia L cheering at her showcase during Thanksgiving break

Congratulations to Jackson R for winning Honorable Mention in this year's Catholic Charities of Idaho Christmas Card Art Contest



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:

Liam R, Joe B, Caiden D, Connor L, Rosie R, Layla R (2), Theo N, June R, Johria B, Jackson R, Amaya P, Frances C, Benedict N, Michael T, Connor T, George W, Kalena J, Parker F, Lucy L,

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent
Mrs. Van's Birthday

Monday, December 11

6:30 p.m. Christmas Music Program @ St. Mark's Church featuring K-5, Orchestra and St. Mark's School Choir

Tuesday December 12

6:30 p.m. Education Foundation Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

Mrs. Rivas' Birthday

Friday, December 15

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

Upcoming Events

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

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



Thank you to all of our families who supported our Community Night at Panera.

**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

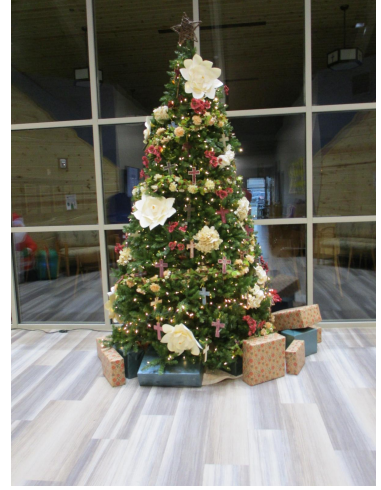
YOU WILL BE SENT INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACCESS YOUR TICKETS THROUGH IDAHO CENTRAL ARENA'S
TICKETMASTER ACCOUNT MANAGER

*****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

St. Mark's School entry in this year's
Festival of Trees
was donated back to the school and
is on display in front of our chapel.





Click here 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 FEBRUARY 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.SCHOOLAUCTION.NET/BLOOM/](https://stmarksschool.schoolauction.net/bloom/)

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Donations of goodies are being accepted for the Bake Sale to benefit the Library on Thursday, December 14. Bring your kid friendly, nut free items to the library on Wednesday after school or on Thursday morning. Earn 1 hr of Volunteer Hours for each \$20 of donation.

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (11)—Bauer, Speck, Sanchez

Tuesday (12)—Bauer, Berry, Chavier, Cavazos

Wednesday (13)—LaMott, Gorney, Binns, Bauer

Thursday (14)—Storli, Anderson, Cavazos

Friday (15)—Antonoplos, Gorney, Binns, Paz

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

Wishing a big THANK YOU to our whole school community for your generous support for our Advent Retreat and Service Projects!! Thank you for bringing in items for the gift bags for **Ronald McDonald House** and **Interfaith Sanctuary/ Corpus Christi Shelter**. Our Elementary students were able to make 200 gift bags to give to those in need. Also, thank you to the Middle Schoolers who brought in sandwich/sack-lunch supplies enough to make over 500 sack lunches. What a generous and loving way to start this holy season of Advent! Thank you also to all of the parent volunteers, our Spirituality Committee and our parish staff for helping lead us in this beautiful retreat!



St. Mark's Christmas Program

Monday, December 11th

6:30pm

St. Mark's Church

(call time 6:15, please deliver your students to the Church by then)

Kindergarten - Christmas Trees. Costume provided by school. Please no bulky or thick clothing as they may get hot.

1st Grade - Nice Christmas Attire

2nd Grade - Angels. Costume provided by school. Please no bulky or thick clothing as they may get hot.

3rd, 4th, 5th & Choir - Nice Christmas Attire. 5th grade can bring in a wig, sunglasses or "quick change" article of clothing for our final number Jingle Bell Rock. Students will bring it with them to the dress rehearsal to practice that quick change.

Adv. Orchestra (6th-8th) - White long sleeve dress shirt, black pants or skirt with leggings. Boy's Christmas ties. Dress shoes.

Dress rehearsal is 12/11 at 1pm in the church.

Our students in grades K-7 have been making Christmas ornaments in Art Class. The process is called Hydro Dipping, ask your students how they made their ornament.

These ornaments will be for sale at the Music Program on Monday night. **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

ornament after the program.



If your child has a dr's appointment and misses school, please make sure to get a note from the doctor so we can add it to their attendance file.

Student Council presents:



SNACK SHACK

Grab and go snacks are sold
every Monday at recess.

All items are \$1.00!



STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS



**\$1
CHRISTMAS
GRAMS**

**FOR SALE
NEXT WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

**GRAMS WILL BE DELIVERED
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH!**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORTING
STUDENTS AT ST. MARK'S**



**Original Chick-fil-A Sandwich
Waffle Chips
Chocolate Chip Cookie
Chick-fil-A Sauce**
No Substitutions will be made.

**All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a
new lion mascot costume and a K-2 lower,
adjustable basketball hoop.**

Click on the flyer for the order form or [click here](#) to download and print it.

A Spanish SEW class will be held next Tuesday, December 12 @ 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul's School in Nampa. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the School Office @ office at 208-467-3601 so they can be prepared with materials.

Students are hosting a Bake Sale on Thursday, December 14 to benefit our Library. Sale will be held before school and during morning recess. Donations of goodies are being accepted for the sale (counts towards Volunteer Hours). Bring your money to buy

a snack and help support our library.



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

Congratulations to this week's Knights of the Week!



Emilia Alsop, Generosity - St. Mark's Graduate and BK Junior

Emilia has both passionately and enthusiastically collected food for the food drive on her own. She has collected 572 points. The joy she has shown in doing this has been inspiring to me. Plus I don't think she is done yet!

North Boise Little League Spring 2024 registration for spring baseball and softball. [Click here](#) for information.

[TVCS Events/Sports](#)



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



Preschool Happenings



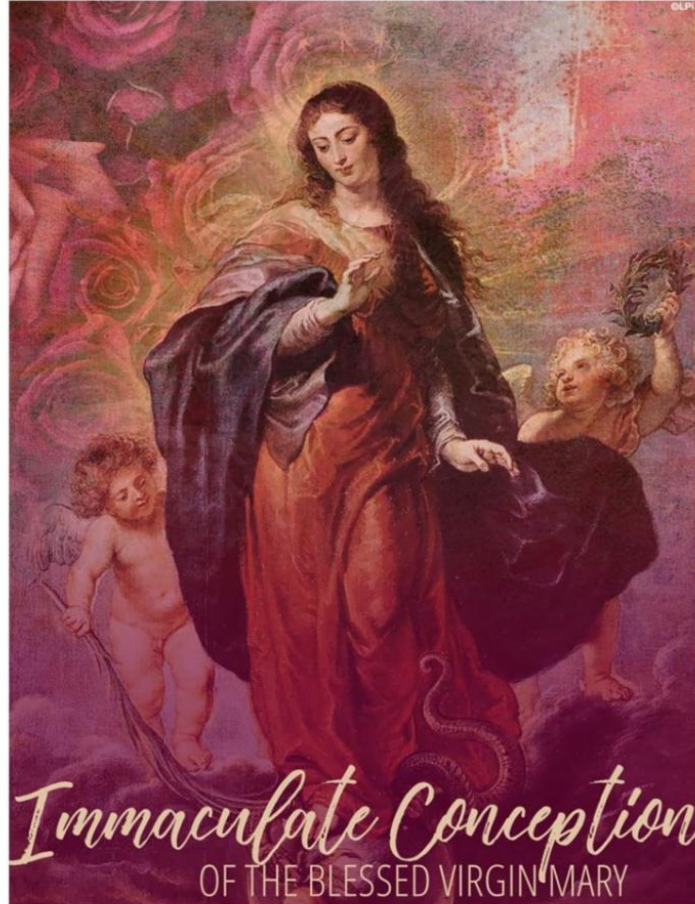
We had a blessed week in Preschool. We learned about Saint Nicholas and Advent. The kids

are so full of joy and are eager to learn.



Church Connection

If you would like to receive the Parish Newsletter **text** BOISESTMARKSNEWS to 42828 to sign up **OR** **Click here** to sign up.



December 8th

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass times:

8:30am, noon and 6:30pm



Notes from the Nurse



Through the St. Alphonus 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.

Hi St. Mark's Parents,

Many parents are concerned about bullying, protecting their kids from it, and making sure their kids aren't engaging in it. But with so much talk about bullying, sometimes we call behavior "bullying" that is actually not. So how can you tell the difference?

I wanted to share the short 5 minute video, "what is bullying", as it can be difficult to define conflict, rude behaviors, mean behaviors and bullying behaviors.

[What is Bullying? - SEL Sketches](#)

CONFLICT	RUDE	MEAN	BULLYING
Occasional	Occasional	Once or Twice	Is REPEATED
Not planned; in the heat of the moment	Spontaneous; unintentional	Intentional	Is planned and done on purpose
All parties are upset	Can cause hurt feelings; upset	Can hurt others deeply	The target of the bullying is upset
All parties want to work things out	Based in thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism	Based in anger; impulsive cruelty	The bully is trying to gain control over the target
All parties will accept responsibility	Rude person accepts responsibility	Behavior often regretted;	The bully blames the target
An effort is made by all parties to solve the problem			The target wants to stop the bully's behavior; the bully does not
Can be resolved through mediation	Social skill building could be of benefit	Needs to be addressed/ should NOT be ignored	CANNOT be resolved through mediation

Source: Jennifer Astles, DASA Newsletter, January 2014, TST BOCES

Rude

Rude is inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else. In children, this takes the form of social errors like "burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up pile of leaves in someone's face." The critical factor? "Incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone."

Mean

Being mean involves "purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice)." Unlike unthinking rudeness, "mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Very often, mean behavior in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down." And while both rudeness and mean behavior require correction, they are "different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention."

Bullying

Bullying is "intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse — even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to

stop.” There are many kinds of bullying, including physical and verbal aggression, relational aggression (like social exclusion, hazing, or rumor spreading), and cyberbullying. The key aspect to all of them is the ongoing nature of the behavior, which leaves the victims feeling powerless and fearful.

By talking to your child about the differences, you can better identify the offending behavior and take appropriate action.

Our hope is that the more we educate ourselves as parents and our students on bullying behaviors, empowering tools, and how to report bullying to trusted adults, we can prevent bullying behaviors in our school. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend!

Sarah Lynch
St. Mark’s School Counselor

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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