



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,

Lent is an invitation for purification and renewal. It was the Council of Nicea in 325 AD that mentioned Lent for the first time. This Council is best known for the profession of faith we call the Nicene Creed which is recited at Mass after the homily. This Council also issued some 20 Canons of a practical nature; the fifth canon speaks of Lent. In this canon Lent is called *tessarakonta* which means forty in Greek. Much earlier, Christians had begun celebrating Easter Sunday commemorating Jesus' resurrection. At that time there used to be some three or four days of preparation commemorating Jesus Passion and Death—the period we now call the Holy week. But the first mention of forty days preparation for Easter comes from the Council of Nicea. The forty days were in imitation of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his public ministry. The English word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning to 'lengthen,' for Lent comes at a time when, as spring approaches, daytime lengthens, or becomes longer. So Lent was seen as a time for us to "lengthen spiritually", to stretch out and grown in the spirit. Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. It is an occasion for us to examine the quality of our Christian life, of our adherence to Jesus and his teaching and of our concern for our needy sisters and brothers. Thus after living a proper Christian life, we contemplate and celebrate Christ as the Light at the Easter Vigil and we renew our baptismal vows. Hence this period leads truly to a renewal of life and commitment. As we are in the Holy Season may we discover the true meaning of LENT, by leaving behind all negative things of the past and striving for a future filled with Hope! *A Different Approach to Fasting...* Our fasts have a tendency to be oriented toward things like giving up food or television. But there are many other creative ways fasting can help us welcome Jesus' healing touch.



Here are seven suggestions you may want to consider:

1. Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

2. Fast from judging others. Before making any judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.
3. Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that He has a perfect plan for our life.
4. Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close our eyes and recall some of the many little moments of joy Jesus has given you.
5. Fast from resentment or bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may have hurt you.
6. Fast from spending too much money. Try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give those savings to the poor.
7. Fast from Social Media. How much time we waste when we could be praying instead.

Wishing you all Peace this Lent!

Fr. Paul

Letter from our Principal



Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy Hallissey weekend! Today kicks off the 61st annual Hallissey basketball tournament! St. Mark's has four 7th and 8th grade teams competing this weekend. You can download the Team Snap Tournaments App to view the game schedules. This tournament is a super fun community event, and I hope many of you will come out to support our student-athletes. A family emergency called me out of town this week, so I will cheer our teams on in spirit and follow all the action online. Go Lions!

Tuition and Fees for the 2024-2025 School Year

After extensive work by our school board's Tuition and Benefits Committee and an extensive review of our financials by the parish business administrator and me, the tuition and fees for next year have been determined. Please know that St. Mark's does not take tuition increases lightly. We truly understand and honor your sacrifice to send your children to St. Mark's. These increases will allow us to continue to meet the school's financial needs to carry out our mission.

PRESCHOOL
K-8

Registration for Next Year

We will begin registering returning families on Monday, February 26th. A \$25 discount in registration fees will be given if you register before March 11, 2024. [Please look for a registration link in your email on Monday.](#)

We never want the cost of tuition to be a reason a family cannot attend St. Mark's Catholic School. We are blessed to have tuition assistance because of donors to the St. Mark's Education Foundation and various scholarship awards and grants. If this tuition increase creates a hardship for your family, we urge you to apply for financial assistance, which includes need-based financial grants and scholarships. Applications may be picked up at the office and are due back to the school office by April 19th. We want to work with you to keep St. Mark's Catholic School accessible.

We are all excited to see the Shakespeare Theater performances next week! A reminder that our class pictures will be taken Wednesday after Mass. We love to have 100% attendance so all our outstanding students can be in our yearbook.

Please be sure to read this edition of Friday Facts to keep abreast of all of the activities, community events, volunteer opportunities and SO much more.

Have a blessed weekend.

Peace,
Donna Gordon

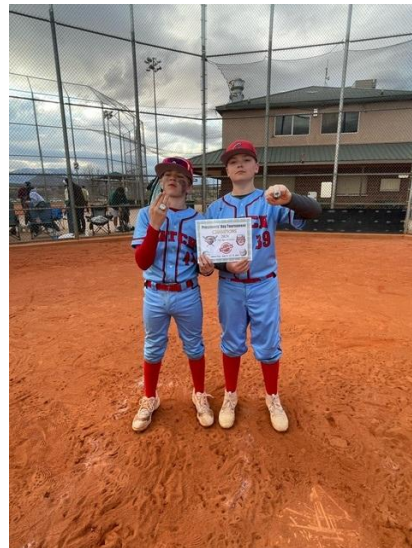
St. Mark's Lion Pride!
Cheer on our teams
at the Hallissey Tournament
this weekend



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



Thatcher and Connor's Baseball Team competed in the Rocky Mountain School of Baseball Presidents' Day tournament in St George, Ut. They went 7-0 winning the tournament and were invited to play in the Tournament of Champions this summer!

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:

Tate B (2), Peter B, Alex M, Benedict N, AJ M, Celeste D, Abby B, Quinten B, Shiloh V, Maitane L, Lucy V, Aiden A, Ella W, Jayden N, Dominic S, Michael C, Jack R, Jared T, Alma R, Olivia L, Julianna W, Rosie R, John B, Zoe K, Kieran S, Caleb R, Emily T, Malakai P, Connor D, Jackson M, Caiden D, Josephine G, Layton S, Espyn S, Parker F, Hudson P, Ava S, Hayden P, Alexa B, Audrey P, Maddy B, Maika P, Austin S, Kylar S, Jaxson W

Weekly Calendar

Saturday, February 24

Hallissey Basketball Tournament

7:00 p.m. Mass Hosted by 7th & 8th grade at St. Mark's Church

8:00-10:00 p.m. Hallissey Dance in Donoghue Hall (for Hallissey players only)

Sunday, February 25

Hallissey Basketball Tournament

Tuesday, February 27

10:00 a.m. K-5 Shakespeare Performance at Donoghue Hall

12:00-3:00 p.m. Adoration

Wednesday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Dressler's 4th grade

10:00 a.m. Class Photos in Mass Dress

Mr. Rossi's Birthday

Thursday, February 29

Dinner Auction Free Dress Day for those who purchased on online auction

10:00 a.m. Grades 6-8 Shakespeare Performance at Donoghue Hall

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 2

Read Across America

Wednesday, March 6

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Ms. Ouimet's 4th grade

First Reconciliation for 2nd graders

Mrs. Anita Martin's preschool

Friday, March 8

Spirit Day

1:30 and 6:00 p.m. 8th grade Living Stations of the Cross

Home & School

Dinner Auction Librarian for a Day

Ms. Dorothy, 1st grade,
working with Mrs. Rosania in the library



If you would like to order pictures from the Dinner Auction, [click here](#) to view the Photo Gallery.



Your child's tea cup from the Dinner Auction was sent home this week. We are suggesting a donation of \$25 for each tea cup. Please send your donation of cash or check to the School Office.

Registration for the Daddy-Daughter Dance is now open! Click here to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/MX1zmfDhNCTyBshe8>

Click here if you would like to volunteer for this event or bring items to help the night sparkle: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044BAEA92AABFC1-47870894-daddy#

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE- BEJEWELLED

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

TIME: 6:30- 8:30PM

LOCATION: ST. MARK'S SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM

COST: \$20 (DAD + DAUGHTER)
\$5 ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER

*INCLUDES A BRACELET AND
PHOTO OF DAD/DAUGHTER

*ADDITIONAL PHOTOS
AVAILABLE FOR \$5



St. Mark's School

FUNDRAISER NIGHT WITH CAFÉ ZUPAS



LOCATION

2148 North Eagle Rd.
Meridian, ID

DATE & TIME

Tuesday, March 12
4pm - 9pm

Many ways to earn up to 25% for your organization:

Dine-In or Curbside:

Let the cashier know you are with
the fundraiser

Café Zupas Mobile App or Online Orders:

Select your fundraiser at checkout



Order with the app



Dear parents, we're excited to announce an upcoming Mother-Son event, aimed at nurturing stronger bonds and creating fun, cherished memories. If you're interested in helping organize or attending, please reach out to Shannon Wayne at 408-221-9507 or email Shannon.r.wayne@gmail.com. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

Get St. Mark's Volunteer Hours - Hallissey Basketball Tournament: We are needing volunteer spaces filled at Holy Apostles and St. Ignatius. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Calovich - acalovich@bk.org

Volunteer link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1naiZpF-caNg1T0wBMVu3aVtI9-Tsm_I_e5fNfDgrEFY/edit?usp=sharing

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (26)—Bauer, Garcia, Perez

Tuesday (27)—Chavier, Bauer

Wednesday (28)—LaMott, Gorney, Binns

Thursday (29)—Storli, Larrinage, Corcoran, Cavzos

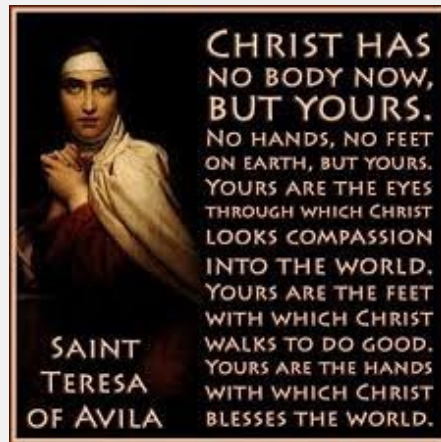
St. Mark's offers a healthy, delicious hot lunch to students and staff EVERY FULL DAY OF SCHOOL!

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



A big THANK YOU to all of the teachers, parish staff, families and students for a blessed Lent Retreat this last Wednesday. We were able to make over 300 Compassion Bags to get to Interfaith Sanctuary, Corpus Christi Shelter and Idaho Youth Ranch. Thank you for your generous donations of toiletry and care items. We prayed and walked the Stations of the Cross, learned about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and reflected on Christ's great love and sacrifice for us. Wishing you and your family a blessed Lent!

THE WORKS OF MERCY

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL

FEED THE HUNGRY 	 INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY 	 COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
SHELTER THE HOMELESS 	 ADMONISH SINNERS
CLOTHE THE NAKED 	 FORGIVE OFFENSES
VISIT THE SICK 	 COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
VISIT THE IMPRISONED 	 BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
BURY THE DEAD 	 PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

"A BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST" (POPE FRANCIS)  CatholicLink



Lenten Retreat

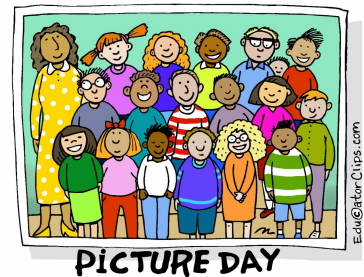
including Prayer, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Compassion Bags with personal notes that were delivered to Interfaith Sanctuary





Class Photo will be taken on Wednesday, February 28 after Student Body Mass

- Visit parkerportraitsonline.com
- Enter your code into the Access Key (paper with code sent home with each student in Friday Folder last week)
- Add picture to the cart and checkout
- All orders placed by Picture Day will be delivered to the school



Did you bring in the 2 reams of copy paper for each child that was requested in the yearly Supply List? If you didn't bring paper at the beginning of the school year, please send the reams to school next week.

We are very short of paper this year.

If you would like to donate a CASE OF PAPER, you are able to take 1 Volunteer Hour.

Our 4th graders went on a field trip to see the Philharmonic. Mrs. Cooper, our Music Director, was playing in the orchestra so the students got to see her perform.



[Click here](#) to view the March Monthly Calendar.

To view the March Lunch Calendar, [click here](#).

Attention 6th, 7th & 8th grade students needing Community Service

(This does not count toward parent volunteer hours)

A reminder that we are making seed packets on Monday, Feb 26 at 6:30pm in the Faith Formation Room. All ages welcome, this is a great one for the kids as they can easily participate in every aspect. The church will be locked up, so please come to that north door that is by the Faith Formation room. We'll have someone posted to open the door. The North Door is the one under the covered walkway that enters into the hall with the bathrooms. For more information and to sign up please go to the [Packet Making Sign Up Genius Page](#)

March 16th and 17th distributing seed packets after all the Masses.. We need 4 volunteers after each Mass (2 tables). All you need to do is pass out seeds and collect phone numbers. Older elementary and teens can be the second person with their parent at a table. For more information and to sign up please go to the [Distributing Seeds Sign Up Genius Page](#)

Wednesday, March 27 is our BK workday. 3 BK classes will be working in the gardens helping with spring prep. We are in need of some items we hope ministry members can help provide. All items can be dropped off in the morning on your way to work, and picked up on your way home. Please label everything with your phone number.

We are in need of:

- 2 gas leaf blowers
- adults to operate the leaf blowers
- shovels
- wheelbarrows

For more information and to sign up please go to the the [BK workday Sign Up Genius Page](#)

Congratulations to this week's Knights of the Week!



Sam Knell - St. Mark's graduate and BK Senior - Community

Sam is always willing to help his peers and me. He is friendly towards everyone in class. He puts full effort into each assignment.

BK Music Department's Spring Concert

The Bishop Kelly High School Band, Choir, and Orchestra ensembles are having their spring concert on Monday, March 11 at 7:00pm in the REG at BK (the gym located in the main school building just past the fountain at the front entrance). Admission is only \$5 for adults, \$3 for HS students, \$2 for younger students and senior citizens, and kids age 5 or younger are free. The award-winning BK ensembles will be performing a wide variety of music and will also feature some students from our partner schools. Doors will open to the public at about 6:30pm. Please contact Mark Peters (mpeters@bk.org) with any questions and we hope to see you there!

TVCS Events/Sports



Click here for the TVCS athletic schedule.

TVCS is offering tennis, golf, and track and field in the Spring of 2024. These sports are available to 6th through 8th grade students. Please use the following link to register. The registration form can also be found on the **TVCS Website** under the Registration tab.

Registration Form

Practices will begin March 11th. I will share additional details cornering coaches, practice and game locations and schedules as they become available.

Please be sure to review the TVCS handbook as parents and with your children prior to the first practice. TVCS is placing a heavy emphasis on positive sportsmanship from parents, players, and coaches. Please be sure to read through the expectations in the handbook.

TVCS Handbook

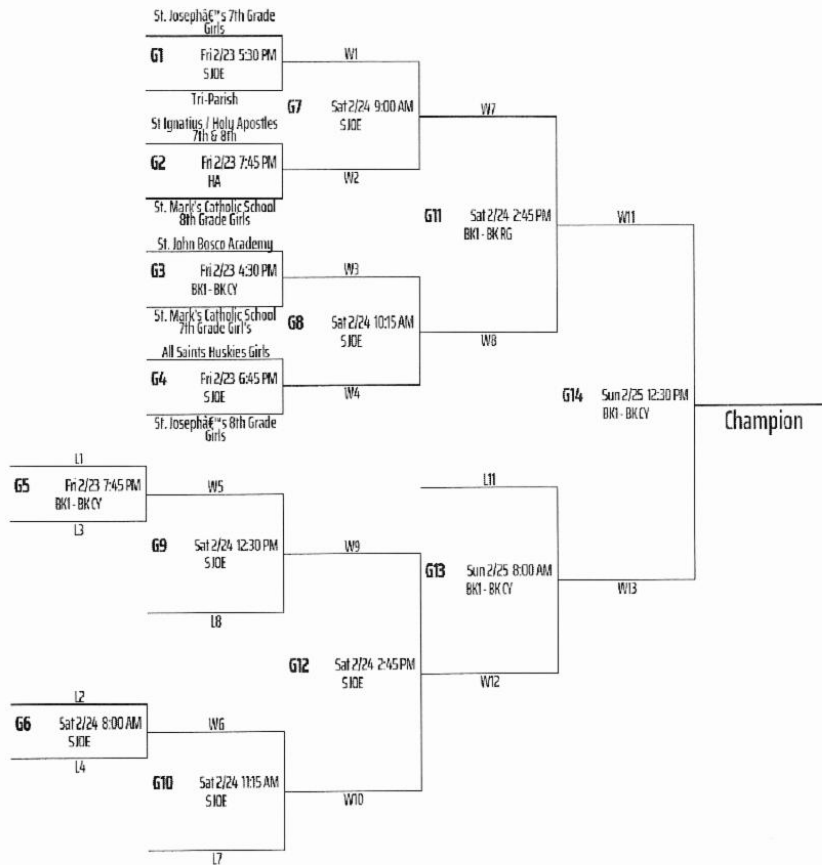


2024 Hallissey Invitational Basketball Tournament

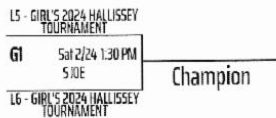
Feb 23 - Feb 25, 2024



GIRL'S 2024 HALLISSEY TOURNAMENT

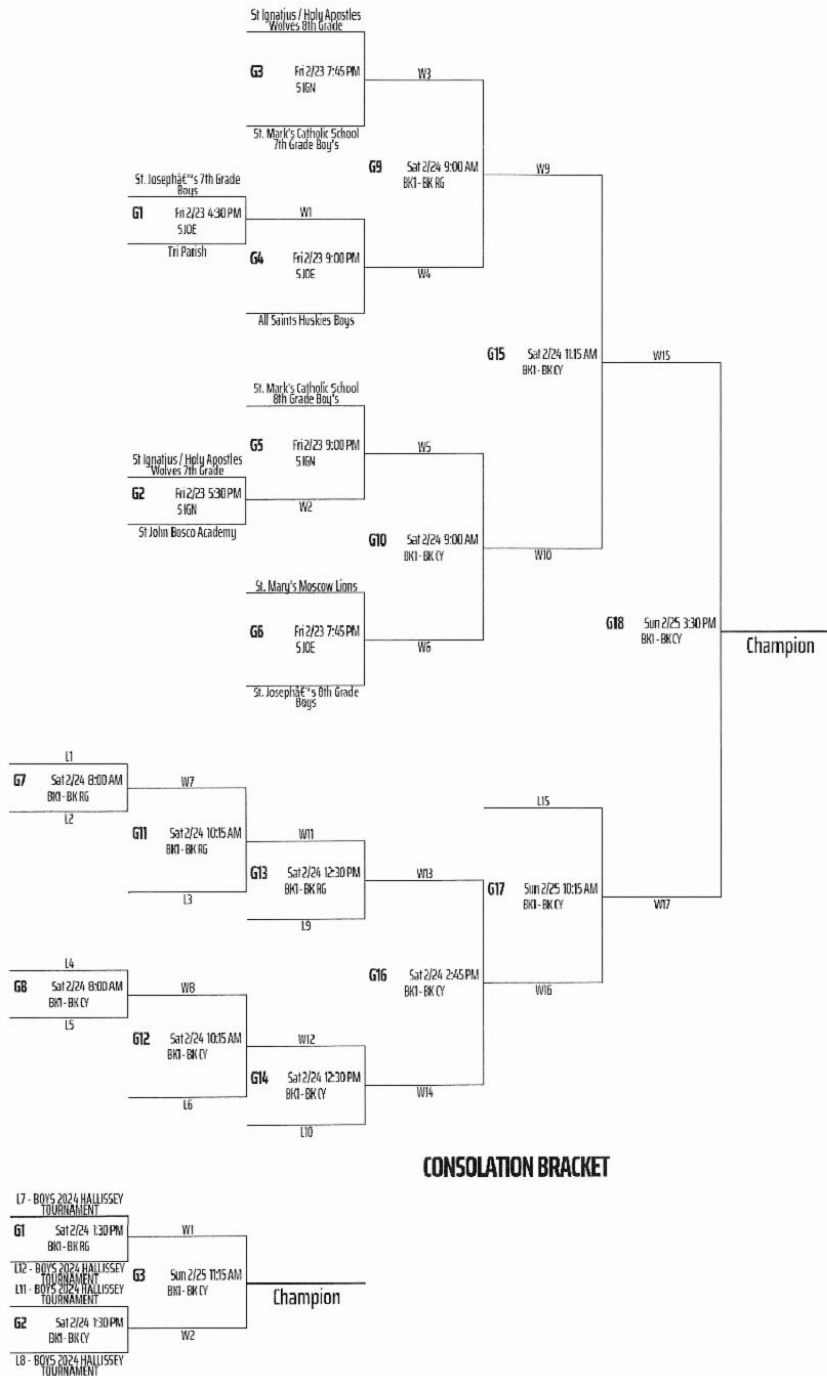


CONSOLATION BRACKET



St. Mark's 8th grade Girls 1st game is Friday, February 23 @ 7:45 p.m. @ Holy Apostles v. St. Ignatius/Holy Apostles 7th & 8th grade
 St. Mark's 7th grade Girls 1st game is Friday, February 23 @ 4:30 p.m. @ BK Carley Center v. St. John Bosco Academy

BOYS 2024 HALLISSEY TOURNAMENT



St. Mark's 8th grade Boys 1st game is Friday, February 23 @ 9:00 p.m. @ St. Ignatius v. winner of G2
 St. Mark's 7th grade Boys 1st game is Friday, February 23 @ 7:45 p.m. @ St. Ignatius v. St. Ignatius/Holy Apostles 8th grade

Click on the QR code to view the tournament program

and

[Click here](#) to go to the Official Hallsissey Tournament



Preschool Happenings



I don't know who originally came up with the idea of teaching oral hygiene care after Valentine's Day, but I think we can all agree it was a good idea! Here our young dentists rolled a dice to determine which cavities they needed to fill first.



Church Connection

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

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.

Notes from the Counselor

Hello St. Mark's Families -

I recently visited middle school and asked the students three questions that they anonymously answered and recorded on a note card.

- What do you wish your parents really knew or understood about you or about being a middle schooler?
- What do you wish your teachers really knew or understood about you or being a middle schooler?

- What do you wish your fellow classmates really knew or understood about being you or being a middle schooler?

The conversations we had about the answers to all three of these questions were very spirited and open. Students heard common themes among each other and really connected with almost all of the answers their classmates gave.

I wanted to share some of the responses that the students gave about what they wish their parents knew or understood about being middle schoolers. I have an 8th grade daughter myself so some of these were very good for me to read and reflect upon.

“I wish my parents knew how hard friendships are.”

“I wish my parents understood that we don’t have to be mini them.”

“I wish my parents knew how much I love them.”

“It’s hard to hear when you compare me to other kids.”

“I wish my parents knew how hard I work during the day and the anxiety it has on me.”

“I’m trying.”

“I wish they knew how hard everything is like sports and school and homework all together. And I wish they came into my room and asked if I needed help. And I wish they didn’t think I am always on my phone.”

“I wish they understood that just because I don’t care as much as you when I lose doesn’t mean I don’t care about the sport at all.”

“I wish my parents knew that sometimes I just want to be alone in my room.”

“I wish they knew how hard I work, how much I love them and how much I want to make them proud.”

“I wish my parents understood that when I talk to them I want them to really listen and pay attention to what I am saying.”

“I wish my parents understood that nothing gets better when they yell.”

“I wish my parents understood that I am burnt out and I don’t want to do all these sports and that I’M NOT PERFECT and I can’t get straight A’s.”

“I wish they understood how important it is for me to be with my friends.”

“It’s too late to say ‘You don’t need to be perfect.’ You raised me with high standards and weren’t happy when I didn’t meet them. Now I have high standards for myself and get upset at myself for not living up to them.”

“I wish they understood that we love them a lot more than they know.”

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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