



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 brothers and sisters of the St. Marks family.

This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent. It is called Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from the first word of the prayer before the Mass... known historically as the indroit.



Rejoice.... Translated from the Latin "Gaudete."

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob."

We do rejoice. As we walk ever closer to celebrating the arrival of Our Savior King through his birth at Bethlehem. The season of Christmas brings many traditions. Some of those traditions are beautifully imbued with mystery and fascination. We should enjoy these and honor these, especially those handed down from generation to generation.

In doing so however, we should never lose sight of the focal point of Christmas and the greatest mystery of all. That Father God who is the author of all life loved all of humanity so much that He would send His son to be born of a woman, mature to adulthood, and then this son of God would willingly die and rise so that we all might be with God forever.

Be filled with rejoicing this third Sunday of Advent....and look for opportunities to share that rejoicing with all whom you meet.

Together We rise,

Fr. John

Letter from our Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy second week of Advent! This week we celebrated the theme of peace, beginning with Miss Smith's first graders hosting the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass on Monday, and ending our week in adoration with Father John. I am so grateful that, during this busy season, we are able to pause and spend quiet time with our Lord.



As we wrap up the first semester, next week will be full of learning, projects, exams, and joyful Christmas celebrations. On Thursday, students are invited to wear their favorite "ugly" Christmas sweater. On our half-day Friday, students may wear their Christmas pajamas!

Please note that we will dismiss at noon on Friday, December 19, and there will be no Homework Club that day. Report cards will be available when we return in **January** on Friday, January 9.

I'm excited for tonight's free Parent Night Out, offered as a small way to thank you for the countless volunteer hours you give and for helping make St. Mark's such a special community.

As we continue our Advent journey, may we keep our hearts focused on the true joy of Christmas: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."* — Isaiah 9:6

Peace,
Donna Gordon



Policy Highlight

School dismisses at NOON on Friday, December 19.

Please be prompt picking up your students
so we all may begin our Christmas Break!

Also, there will be **NO HOMEWORK CLUB** on
Friday, December 19.

Together We Rise



As mentioned at Back-to-School Night, one way we can live out our theme "**Together We Rise**" is through open communication. To support this, we've introduced the Rise & Share Google Form.

Rise & Share Google Form

Here's how it works:

- If you have a question or concern and prefer to share it through the form, Mrs. Gordon will check responses every morning.
- If you'd like a reply, you can include your contact information, and Mrs. Gordon will respond as soon as possible.

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.

Spirituality Spotlight

Upcoming Dates

12/17- Wednesday: 1st Grade Teaching Mass with Fr. John @ 8:15am

12/17- Wednesday: Student Body Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Mrs. Behrend's 8th grade

**1st grade parents, please join us
for a Teaching Mass
with Fr. John**

Where: St. Mark's School Chapel

When: Wednesday, December 17th at 8:15am

Who: Both 1st grade classes and their families

Fr. John will walk through the Holy Mass step by step explaining the history and meaning of the gestures and symbols we see. Students are encouraged to ask questions while participating in the Mass.



The Third Sunday in Advent
JOY



ST. MARK'S ADVENT RETREAT 2025



THANK YOU TO FATHER JOHN, PARISH STAFF, SCHOOL STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!

Student Spotlight



4th grade went caroling at St John Vianney Retirement Center to entertain our retired priests



Congratulations to our eight graders who won the VFW's Patriot's Pen Essay Contest!

Pilar—First place in the Post competition and her essay also won first in the District competition.

Brynlee—Second place

Leilah—Third place

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:

Darcy V (2), Delta M, Thomas U, Charlee N, Hank W, Andrew B, Colton S (2), Colby R, Maddie B, Makenzie C, Penny G, Christopher U, Clara J

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 14

Mrs. Rivas's birthday

Monday, December 15

1:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Music Program

6:30 p.m. Christmas Music Program @ St. Mark's Church presented by PS-5, Advanced Orchestra and Choir

Wednesday, December 17

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

1st grade Teaching Mass in St. Mark's School Chapel

1:30 p.m. St. Mark's School Choir caroling at Truewood Assisted Living

Friday, November 19

End of First Quarter - Noon Dismissal

Special Christmas Dress Up Day

10:00 a.m. BK band presentation

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 22 - Monday, January 5

Home & School



St Marks Catholic School Auction

Buffalo, Boots & Blessings - Volunteer Opportunities (remember each family is responsible for 6 hrs of volunteering directly related to the Dinner Auction)

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0544ABA828A3FDC07-59741604-buffalo/63576846>

Volunteer Opportunities

TO VOLUNTEER IN ANY CAPACITY AT ST. MARK'S SCHOOL,
YOU MUST TAKE A LIVE SEW CLASS AND PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK.

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (15)—Antonoplos

Tuesday (16)—Rivas

Wednesday (17)—Martin, Antonoplos

Thursday (18)—Jower, Commons, Antonoplos

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 come into the School Office and sign up in the black "lunch" binder, call (208) 375-6654 or **email** to volunteer.

Daily Lunch Schedule: 11:15 a.m. (PS-2); 11:35 a.m. (3-5); 12:05 p.m. (6-8)

News



K-7th student ornaments will be available for purchase at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 15th for \$5. Can't make the concert? Ornaments will be available at the front office starting Tuesday the 16th!



**FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 IS PAJAMA
DAY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF ❄️
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS
JAMMIES OR PJS IN CHRISTMAS
COLORS AND HELP US CELEBRATE THE
END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER ❄️**



Parents and students are encouraged to bake items for the library bake sale. Parents receive Volunteer Hours and students may earn Community Service Hours.

November charges for lunch and Homework Club did not hit your account on December 1. These charges normally would be due on December 15. Charges now may be seen on your account and the charges will be withdrawn from your account on December 22. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.



Mrs. Rosania's Advent Book Challenge has begun. Students have a list of reading challenges to do now through January 9.

Click [here](#) to get the form to participate.



ART CLUB 2025–2026*



QUARTER 3

What is Art Club?

Art club is for students who wish to spend additional time on art through independent studies, team projects, new projects, or increased time to complete art class work. Possible projects include making an art journal and portfolio, making t-shirts, working with new techniques, and CERAMICS!!! A wide range of talents and abilities are welcome in art club. However, it is important for potential art club members to have a strong interest in art. They must also be able to work well with other members, follow instructions, and behave in a mature and appropriate manner. Students will have the opportunity to grow in their art skills and participate in a variety of projects using new skills and mediums.

Who: Students 5th grade and up

When: **Thursdays** during the school year unless otherwise noted (quarter 3&4 dates are subject to change)

Where: Ms. Hatfield's classroom

Time: 3:05-4:15 pm

Cost: \$110/quarter OR \$210 for rest of year (nonrefundable)

We never want the cost to discourage students to participate. Scholarships are available if needed - Please contact the office for further information

Pickup Policy: Pickup is at 4:15 outside the middle school and students will be sent to homework club after 5 minutes



ART CLUB DATES*

Quarter 3

January 15
January 22
January 29
February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26
March 5

Quarter 4

March 26
April 2
April 9
April 16
April 23
April 30
May 7
May 14 (subject to change depending on end of year schedule)



**Should a class need to be cancelled, a makeup class will be offered on a Monday or Friday.*

*Application on back of page.



[Click here](#) to download Application page.

[Click here](#) for the January lunch menu.

To view the January monthly calendar, [click here](#).



Click here to download Free Throw registration form.

Art Website

featuring art from Mrs. Arentz's and Ms. Hatfield's art classes
Click on this link weekly to view student works of art

<https://sites.google.com/stmarksschoolboise.com/smk8thart/saint-marks-school-art>

TVCS Events/Sports



Click here for the TVCS athletic schedule.

Preschool Happenings



We are learning about Advent and preparing our hearts for Jesus! We also learned about St. Juan Diego & Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Church Connection

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



CHRISTMAS MASSES

12/24-**4pm**

12/24-**7pm**

12/24-**11pm**

A.K.A. MIDNIGHT MASS

12/25-**10am**

*All four Masses fulfill the
Holy Day of Obligation

Notes from the Nurse

With the holidays approaching, December can be a stressful month. Primary care is especially important because it helps you stay healthy. Your doctor can check in on how your body is handling stress. They can also give you advice on sleep, nutrition, and ways to cope. Seeing a primary care provider helps catch small problems before they turn into big ones. Overall, primary care supports both your physical and mental well-being when life feels overwhelming. What better way to start the New Year than feeling refreshed, supported, and ready to take on anything.



Saint Alphonsus
SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

If you are looking for a provider, here is a link that can assist you in finding the right doctor for you and your needs.

<https://saintalphonsushealthalliance.org/providers>

Saint Alphonsus School Health Program

Through the St. Alphonsus School Health Program, Mrs. Lewchenko-Colin, our school nurse, is at St. Mark's on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs. Placido, CNA, SASHP Assistant is here on Thursdays.

Notes from the Counselor

Many youngsters lose much of their personal power during the first few years of life. This is sad, because what they lose has considerable impact on their productivity as well as the quality of their life in later years. I am referring to their creative abilities and their ability to feel in control of their destiny.

Many loving parents, in their zeal to raise good children, start this "extraction process" by placing their demands in the wrong place. While we have the right to demand responsible behavior from our children, often this demand is for blind obedience. There is a critical difference between the two.

Parents demand responsible behavior by providing their children with advice and a range of choices that carry consequences. This forces their children to think for themselves. It sends the message that whoever owns the problem can solve it and places a high value on creative thought.

Other parents use threats, intimidation, and commands to coerce their children into doing as they are told. They indicate that their way is the only acceptable way. This type of parenting conditions children to believe that others have the answers to their problems. Children in these situations are actually penalized when they think for themselves. They soon learn that thinking does not pay. What happens when children are the subject of parental threats and demands?

One

Children in these situations focus on the wrong kind of power. As they grow up, they soon try to obtain power the same way as their parents.

Two

Before long, children copy the ways their parents get power-mainly through threats, intimidation, or force. But this just makes their parents angry. It is very hard on us as adults when someone mirrors our behavior, especially that behavior we dislike about ourselves!

Three

Control is too valuable a commodity for children to give up without a fight. Unfortunately, the fight for control is not about the ability to think for oneself, but about children stubbornly trying to get their own way.

Four

Children learn through their parents' actions that they are not capable of thinking for themselves. This concept is often reinforced after they make a mistake: "See! You should have listened to me," the parent says.

What is worse, children are being trained to listen to their peers when they reach adolescence. This training takes place during a child's first eleven years when, he is in the concrete thinking stage.

By the time children learn to think abstractly, they have already been conditioned to listen to a strong voice outside their head that tells them what to do. When they reach adolescence, they no longer want to listen to this voice. A teen might say, "I can think for myself!"

That would indeed be nice. But eleven years of conditioning only leaves the child in a position to listen to another voice from the outside-that of his peers.

My job as a parent

I believe my assignment as a parent is to take a totally dependent little baby and gradually help him develop into a totally independent adult. I am usually given eighteen years to get this job done. I know of no better way to do this than to make my home as much like the real world as possible.

The real world is a place where people are constantly faced with decisions. A child preparing to live in this world needs lots of practice making these decisions and then living with the consequences. It's way too late to wait until a youngster is eighteen!

Wise parents start this process early by giving their children choices that have fairly simple consequences. They gradually move on to more complex decisions and consequences. These parents teach their children that they have the power to make their lives pleasant or not. This is known as the development of judgment and wisdom.

This approach also builds strength in children by allowing them to struggle. Recent studies indicate that children who have been denied the right to struggle in their early years are at a high risk for suicide and other self-destructive behavior. Children who are given the opportunity to struggle and overcome adversity learn that they are in control of the quality of their lives and destiny.

Parents who practice giving choices and consequences receive a pleasant surprise: they discover that they actually have more control over their children than those parents who boss their kids around. Children who are constantly trying to make decisions, especially ones that carry consequences, are often too busy thinking to fight with their parents. They also know that their parents are not trying to "extract the tooth of wisdom."

In the next article, you'll learn some easier ways to set limits for your child.

Have a great week,

Joe Lipetzky Psy.D.

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

Sarah Lynch, our school counselor, is at St. Mark's on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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