



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

As we celebrate the joyful season of Christmas, may the birth of Jesus fill your hearts with peace, hope, and love. May God bless our students, families, and staff, and may the New Year bring continued faith and kindness to all.

Merry Christmas and God bless,



Fr. John

Letter from our Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,



Merry Christmas! Thank you for a beautiful first semester. Report cards will be available on Friday, January 9 in your FACTS family portal.

Please read this edition of Friday Facts to see photos from all of this week's festivities—God is good!

Please join me in praying for Rena and her family as they grieve the loss of her mother, and for all those who are mourning during this holiday season. May they be comforted by God's peace and the support of our community.

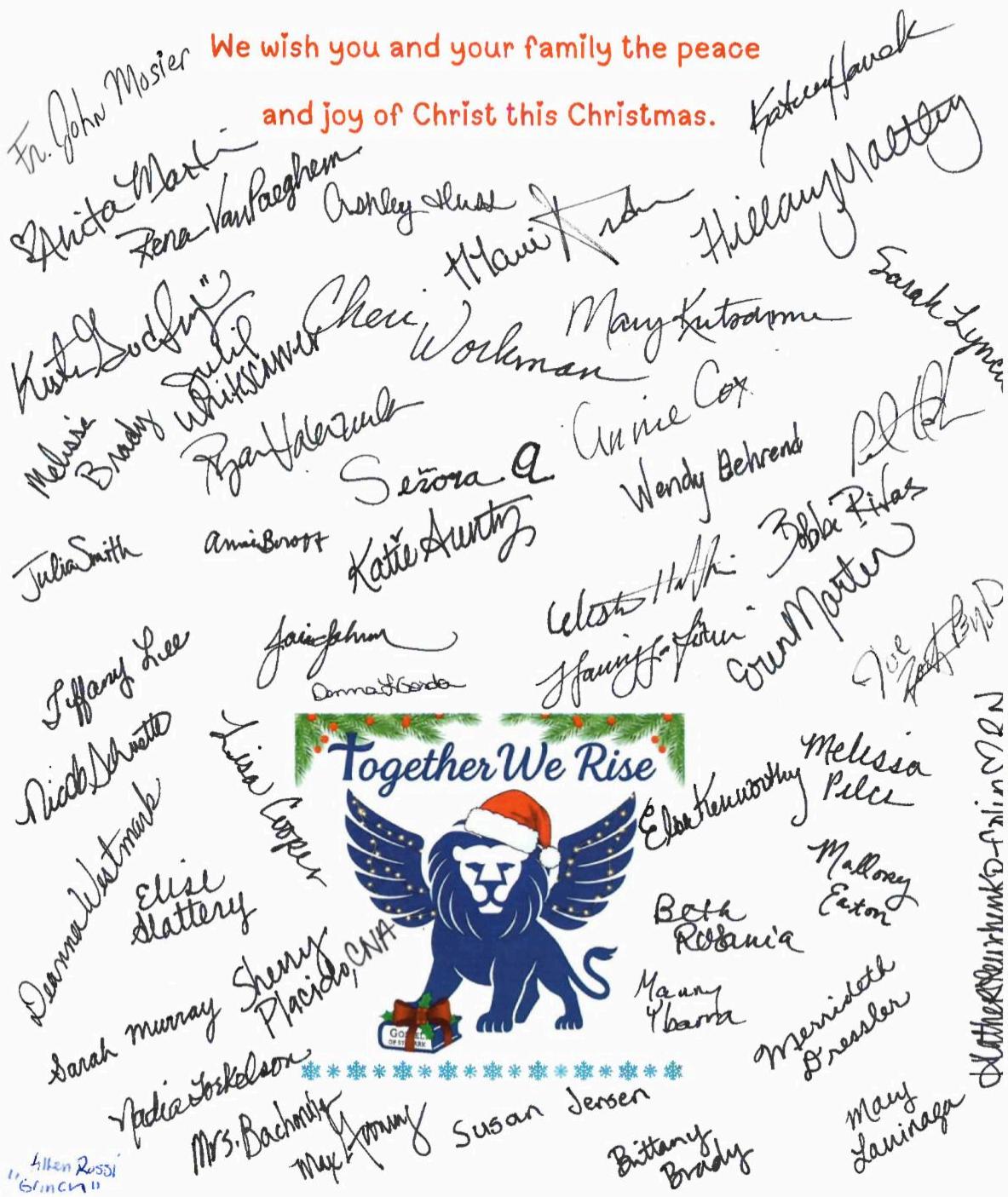
As we enter the Christmas season, may the light of Christ bring hope, comfort, and renewed strength to every family. I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Peace,

Donna Gordon

BK Band comes for a visit! Click the image below to hear a special message from our Lions to you!





Rise & Share Google Form

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

We truly value open communication and working in partnership with you.

Together We Rise



SAINT MARK'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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.](#)

Spirituality Spotlight

Wednesday after Mass we honored 22 students who earned ***Virtue of the Quarter*** honors this quarter. These students consistently exemplify the cardinal virtue of **Temperance**. Congratulations to these remarkable students: Brynn K., Colben R., Jasper T., Walter C. (Justice), Zachary H., Alex M., Genevieve A., Payton D., Aurora G., Matthew V., Juliet G., Reid M., Eleanor A., Claire M., Lydia M., Benjamin R., Aspen D., Stella N., Aleena D., Grace G., Dorothy A., Samuel A.



Student Spotlight



Kylar has been working towards his black belt rank in taekwondo for 2 years, and he achieved it on Thursday! He tested on 12/11 and passed. He is very proud of his accomplishment!

Mrs. Cooper, parent chaperones and our advanced choir spread some Holiday cheer at Truewood nursing home on Wednesday.



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:

Colton S, Chloe S, Adaline W, David C, Emma B, James W, Thomas U, Lochlan M, George W, Beauden D, Mason C, Ly P, Joe Joe B.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 22 - Monday, January 5

Christmas Break

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 5, 2026 - Teacher Inservice

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - Students return to school

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - Student Body Mass hosted by Mrs. Schuette's 8th grade

Friday, January 9, 2026 - Advent Book Challenge forms due. Second Quarter **Report Cards** available in FACTS.

Home & School



ST MARK'S SCHOOL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 -- 7:10PM

Allen Americans @ Idaho Steelheads

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

**DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$25 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/stmarks65>

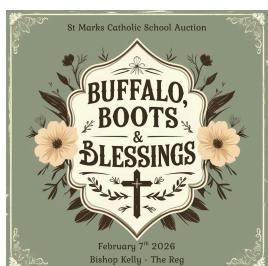
CLICK "GET TICKETS" AND SELECT YOUR SEATS

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



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,

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (5) - No School

Tuesday (6) -

Wednesday (7) - LaMott

Thursday (8) -

Friday (9) -

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. Ornaments will be available at the front office starting Tuesday the 16th!

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.



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

ART CLUB DATES*

Quarter 3



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.

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>

Click here for the January lunch menu.

To view the January monthly calendar, **click here**.



Click here to download Free Throw registration form.

TVCS Events/Sports



Click here for the TVCS athletic schedule.

Preschool Happenings

Las Posadas - Celebration or reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging.

We were visited by a couple of Spanish classes as they searched for a place to stay. Sadly, we had to turn them away as we were full, "no hay sitio".

We wish you all a blessed remainder of this Advent season and a Very Merry Christmas!



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.

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.



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

Pulling the Tooth of Wisdom, From the Love and Logic Journal v2.2

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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