

Volume 10, Issue 16- December 5, 2025



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 Friends and Family of St. Mark's School,

I know this is a busy time of year, but I hope that you have prayerfully entered into our liturgical season of preparation: *Advent*. It is important to prioritize our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our lives. If you can add ten minutes of prayer and reflection to each of your days, I know that you will feel blessed by this time and will feel the Hope that the Lord wants us to experience. I personally invite you to any and all of the upcoming events here at St. Mark's Church.



- **Saturday, December 6th** We will be gathering for Mass at 5 pm, St. Nicholas dinner at 6 pm and an Advent Concert at 7 pm. What a beautiful evening of community and music!
- **Thursday, December 11th** We are hosting Mercy Night, which is a candlelit evening of quiet prayer and reflection. There will be confession, adoration, and prayer teams available to pray with you. Come seek calm and solace in the presence of the Lord.
- **Wednesday, December 17th** We are hosting our Advent Penance Service. This is an evening where many priests across the Diocese of Boise will be here beginning at 6:30 pm to hear your confession. Please stop in and take advantage of this opportunity.

I certainly enjoyed spending time with all our young disciples on Thursday, for their Advent retreat, here at the Church. What great energy and hope they bring to us all!

Together We Rise,
Fr. John

Letter from our Principal

Advent Retreat Blessings!

What a beautiful week we shared at St. Mark's. Wednesday marked our first-ever full-day Advent retreat, and it was truly a grace-filled experience. We also launched our brand-new Family System—eighteen Saint Families made up of students from kindergarten through eighth



grade, each led by a homeroom teacher and supporting staff members. It was wonderful to see students connect across grade levels, form new friendships, and care for one another as one school family. This new structure will allow us to grow in faith and fellowship in joyful ways: sitting together at Mass, celebrating Catholic Schools Week, field day, service projects, and more.

Gratitude for Our Leaders and Volunteers

A humongous thank you to our Spirituality Committee, led by Mrs. Brittany Brady and Mrs. Trina Hauck, for the countless hours poured into planning such a meaningful retreat. Many parent volunteers also played an essential role in making this day so special—thank you for your generosity of time and heart.

Special Guests and Student Contributions

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Katie Stroschein at Bishop Kelly and her junior students in Campus Ministry for leading our morning in music, reflection, and Advent preparation. Their leadership helped our students reflect deeply on how we can draw closer to Christ this season. Our 7th graders, led by Mrs. Behrend, presented a beautiful play honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Señora A led our school through Las Posadas with her Spanish students. It was certainly a fantastic day to be a Lion!

Mass, Uniform, and Sacrament Reminders

- **Monday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass uniforms are required.**
- We will **not have Mass on Wednesday, December 10**. Please follow regular dress code on Wednesday.
- **Confessions for grades 3–8 will take place on Wednesday, December 10 at the school.** This is a beautiful opportunity for our students to prepare their hearts this Advent.

Advent Prayer Intention

As we continue our Advent journey, may our hearts be open to receive Christ with joy, hope, and peace. May our school family grow ever closer in faith and friendship, and may we live out our call to love and serve one another with humility and joy. We pray to the Lord.

Together We Rise,
Mrs. Gordon



Policy Highlight

Winter Uniform - Thanksgiving to Spring Break

- no shorts
- skirts and jumpers must be worn with tights, leggings or knee-highs
- Socks & Tights must be **SOLID White, black, gray or navy blue**

Together We Rise



SAINT MARK'S
—CATHOLIC SCHOOL—

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

12/8 Monday: Immaculate Conception Student Body Mass hosted by Miss Smith's 1st grade

12/10- Wednesday: 4th Grade Teaching Mass with Fr. John @ 8:15am

12/3- Wednesday: Advent Student Reconciliation

12/12 Friday: Adoration in the school chapel

4th grade parents, please join us
for a Teaching Mass
with Fr. John

Where: St. Mark's School Chapel

When: Wednesday, December 10th at 8:15am

Who: Both 4th 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



A huge thank you to our parent
volunteers for helping prepare and
take part in our Advent retreat!



Visit from St. Nicholas



Join us for Eucharistic adoration in our chapel on December 12th! [Sign up Here](#)



Student Spotlight



Our 5th graders went on a field trip to the SVdP Christmas Toy Store and helped clean, sort and set up.



Thank you to our students for making ornaments and to Mrs. Emily Smith and Mrs. Hana Pletichova for decorating our Festival of Trees tree.

Our tree earned 2nd place this year!

Thank you to the Borgna Family for purchasing and donating the tree back to St. Mark's School

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 Quickly 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:

Charlotte S, Sam A, Genevieve S, Lochlan M, Nora B, Micah B, Noah M, Blair K, Hendrix M, Makenzie C, Penny G, Gabriella C, Corbin S, Terra R, Adalaine C, Chris U, Thomas U, Aspen C,

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Ms. Smith's 1st grade (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

7:00 p.m. Home & School Meeting

Mrs. Behrend's Birthday

Wednesday, December 10

No Student Body Mass

4th grade teaching Mass in school chapel

9:30 a.m. - Noon Advent Student Reconciliation Service @ the Church

Mrs. Van's Birthday

Friday, December 12

Feast of Guadalupe

Spirit Day

School Adoration

5:30-9:00 p.m. Volunteer Appreciation Parent Shopping Night

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

Mrs. Rivas's Birthday

Monday, December 15

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

6:30 p.m. Christmas Music Program @ Church presenting Preschool-5th grades, Advanced Orchestra & Choir

Wednesday, December 17

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

1st grade Teaching Mass in School Chapel

Friday, December 19

End of First Semester - NOON DISMISSAL

Special Christmas Dress Up Day

Home & School

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH | 5-9PM
205 N MILWAUKEE ST, BOISE, ID, 83704

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **YMPZ2Y9**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



Volunteer Opportunities

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



Volunteers are needed to help sell Christmas ornaments at this year's Christmas Program on Monday, December 15. Each student in K-7th grade has crafted a unique, handmade ceramic ornament. Ornaments will be \$5 each as a fundraiser for our Art Classes.

If you would like to volunteer, please email Mrs. Arentz at karentz@stmarkschoolboise.com.

THE LUNCHROOM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! Parents, grandparents...are all welcome to volunteer weekly, monthly, occasionally (must be SEW trained). Contact schooloffice@stmarksschoolboise.com with the dates you can volunteer to get signed up. Time volunteered counts toward your Volunteer Hours.



On Wednesdays walking to and from Student Body Mass, we can always use volunteers to walk with our classes. Please stop by the School Office on any Wednesday morning that you can help and you will be given instructions.

Do you have a marketing background? We are looking for help on our school's marketing committee. Please email **Donna Gordon** if you are willing to share your expertise with our school community.

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (8)—

Tuesday (9)—

Wednesday (10)—LaMott, Martin

Thursday (11)—

Friday (12)—

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

Student Body Mass next week **will be held on Monday, December 8** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. There will be no Student Body Mass on Wednesday, December 10, although 4th grade will have a Teaching Mass in the school chapel.

On Wednesday, December 10, from 9:30 a.m.-Noon, students will have a Reconciliation Service at the school.

Reindeer Cocoa Cones

WARM UP YOUR WINTER WITH A FESTIVE
REINDEER HOT COCOA CONE!

SCAN QR-CODE FOR THE ORDER FORM AND TURN
MONEY INTO THE OFFICE LABELED (CASH OR CHECK)

CONES WILL BE PASSED OUT ON DEC. 18.
PRESALE ONLY



MONEY DUE
TO THE
OFFICE
12/12/25



All proceeds help
Student Council fund
playground
improvements!

Click on the link to order your Reindeer Cocoa Cones -
<https://forms.gle/uv2jMm5SsuibPCab8>

Price is \$2 per cone and deadline to order is December 12.



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



This year's Christmas Program, featuring PRESCHOOL-5th, Advanced Orchestra and School Choir, is set for Monday, December 15 @ 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. The program will be livestreamed on the Church's website at www.stmarksboise.org and their **FaceBook page.**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

Boys and Girls, Ages 9-14

Location: St. Mark's School Gym

Date: Sat. January 24th Time: 10AM-2pm

Sponsor: Knights of Columbus

Contact: Evan Peebles 208-309-5188



Please note: Entrants may compete in only one local competition.

1596 5/18

FAITH IN ACTION

COMMUNITY

[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

The Square One Art order deadline has been extended to December 12th!

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

BK student survey - participation of St. Mark's parents is voluntary (children born 2015-2025)

My name is Mattie Iseri, and I am a junior at Bishop Kelly. I am in the AP Research class, and I am doing a project on the factors that influence Vitamin K administration in newborns, and I am focusing on the age group of children born between 2015 and 2025. I was hoping that you could post my survey to the St. Mark's Newsletter, so that I can reach more parents. If this is not something that is possible, I completely understand. I will attach the link to the form below. Thank you for your time!

Here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/GfXfscFT1UnGQQG76>

Sincerely,
-Mattie Iseri

TVCS Events/Sports



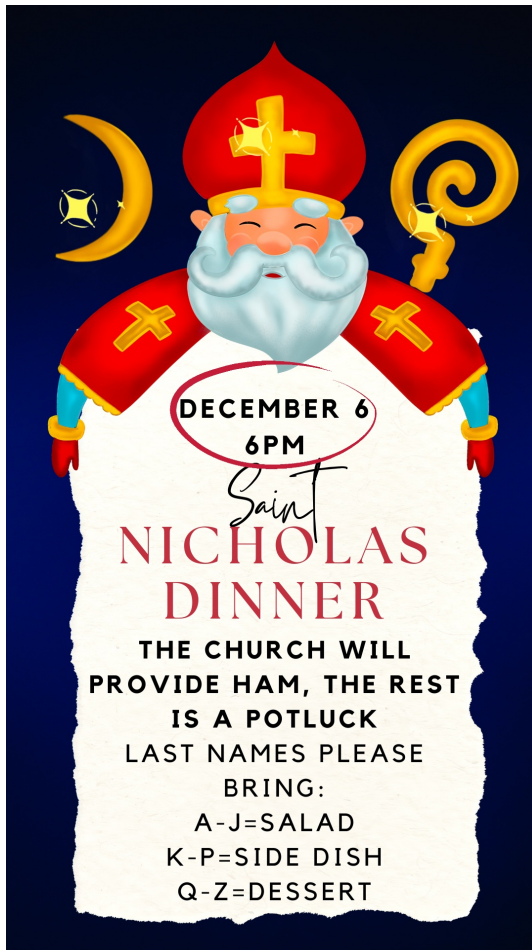
Click here for the TVCS athletic schedule.

Preschool Happenings

The best guest speaker came to help us celebrate his feast day. The preschoolers made a mitre to wear in celebration of one of our favorite saints. St. Nicholas, pray for us!



Church Connection



The Advent concert will be a beautiful evening of St. Mark's Schola and Concert Choirs, a String Trio, Boise Vietnamese Choir, Our Lady of the Rosary Choir and St. Mark's School Choir. Come and enjoy the beautiful evening of music at 7 pm.

Notes from the Nurse



The month of December is known as the "Month of Giving". Due to the spirit of generosity surrounding the holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Consider focusing on kindness and sharing. Small acts of kindness include but not limited to offering a compliment, buying someone in need a cup of coffee, help with a food donation to a local food bank, help rake leaves or shovel snow for the elderly. These acts can increase feelings of happiness, self-esteem, and optimism while decreasing loneliness and anxiety. Consider participating in a random act of kindness today.

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

Reasoning with Children, from the Love and Logic Journal, v2.1

"I don't know what's wrong with that child. He never listens to a thing I tell him. I might as well be talking to the wall for all he cares!" Does this sound familiar? How do we get our children to listen and benefit from our experience and knowledge? Maybe it's asking too much. Or is it? As I look back on my own childhood, I realize I didn't do a very good job of listening to my parents. And very few of my friends listened to their parents as they should have. We could blame this problem on the fact that kids are just headstrong and determined to learn the hard way. It's also possible that many parents try to reason with their kids at the wrong time. This "bad timing" greatly reduces the odds of success.

The wrong time to reason with a child.

I've watched many parents, including myself, give their children a "good talking to" with little or no positive results. It was obvious that the adult not only had good intentions, but good advice as well. The only trouble was that the child was not in a receptive emotional state that would allow him/her to listen and make use of the adult's wisdom.

Use actions with only a few words.

The words we use with our children when they are in an emotional state are wasted. They are either never heard, or they are turned against us. We all have difficulty listening during emotional times. It is natural to focus most of our energy and thoughts on the emotions rather than the words that are being spoken. As a result, we tend to remember the other person's anger more than what he or she said.

The following dinner table scene provides a good example: Georgie complains about his food and does not eat. He is reminded to eat his dinner several times without any results.

One parent might use anger and lecture to handle this situation. "What's wrong with you? How many times have I told you that this is not a cafeteria! I can't be fixing just what you want all the time. Why can't you be like your brother? Don't you dare come to this table with that attitude. I'm putting the food away and you won't get to eat until breakfast. Maybe next time you'll pay attention to me!"

Another parent might handle this situation by allowing the child to experience the natural consequence of his behavior. This parent replaces anger with empathy and understanding: "We'll be picking up the food and the dishes in five minutes. I hope by then you'll have eaten all you need to hold you until breakfast."

The youngster does not eat, and nothing is said about it. Five minutes later, the food is removed, and the child is sent on his or her way in a friendly manner.

Later, the child will probably say, "I'm hungry. What can I have to eat?"

This wise parent knows that the fewer words she uses, the more her child will learn. Her response is, "I bet you are. That's what happens to me when I miss my dinner. I bet you'll be anxious for breakfast. Don't worry, we'll cook a big one." Lectures with anger cause children to think about our anger. On the other hand, consequences with empathy cause children to think about their lives and their decisions. The youngster in the second situation will probably think long and hard about the consequence. The child in the first situation will probably think more about how angry he is with his parent.

Use words when the child is in the thinking state.

The best time to reason with a child is when both the child and parent are happy. A good time might be in the car when all is going well. As I look back upon my Life, most of the wisdom I gained from my Dad came from what he shared with me during our happy times.

The next article explores how to help our children think for themselves by giving them the right kind of power.

Happy Advent.

Dr Joe

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.



Try email marketing for free today!