



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 Family and Friends of St. Mark's School

One of the clear highlights of my week is to join our SMS faculty, students, and family members in our weekly school Mass. The students who are organizing the Mass and serving as Lectors are very well prepared. From Kindergarten up through 8th Grade. I am continually impressed with the student's preparedness and reverence for the Mass. The student's presence at St. Mark's, and their parents' investment in them and partnership with the St. Mark's school faculty, evidences a clear decision towards the well-being of the student.

The readings for this weekend speak about decision making. In the reading from Sirach (Ben Sira), the author is very direct. In Ch. 15 verse 17 he writes, "Before everyone are life and death, whichever they choose will be given them." While it is always important to appreciate the context of a passage, sometimes, just reading it as written offers the best interpretation. In this case.....the author says what he means. Everyday, we are faced with decisions. We can choose to follow the teachings of Christ, or, we can turn against him and choose to not follow him. Following Jesus is a choice for goodness and life. Choosing to reject him and his teachings is a choice for death; both in this life and for all of eternity.

Our Lord's teachings captured by Matthew in his gospel also carry the theme of decision making. In his famous sermon on the mount our Lord teaches us the beatitudes. They teach us how suffering for the sake of Christ is the highest honor or accomplishment in this lifetime. After this, our Lord then cites seven examples of Jewish law and culture where a specific definition or legal interpretation is offered; (reading the Law, anger, adultery, divorce, making oaths, retaliation if wronged, and how to treat enemies). Jesus expands on these narrower definitions to offer a more complete or mature way of interpreting what someone said or did. He invites us to make a decision. We can try to narrowly interpret the intention of a moral precept, or, we can embrace it in its intention and entirety.

Let us each choose life. Choose to walk in the light. By choosing Him, in choosing to follow His teachings, we invite others to do the same. As we each seek to follow Him, we are drawn in closer together. We lift each other up in the name of Christ. This is the very meaning of rising together.

I am very proud of you all,

Together we Rise,

Fr. John

Letter from our Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy Valentine's Day! I pray you have a beautiful weekend filled with time, joy, and love with your family.



It was also so wonderful to see so many members of our St. Mark's community at our Annual Dinner Auction! Thanks to your incredible generosity and the support of our families and community partners, we are already **grossing over \$161,000**. And the fun isn't over yet — raffle ticket sales are still coming in, which should bring us very close to our **\$180,000 goal!**

A very special and heartfelt thank you to Catherine Paczocha, along with all of the volunteers who gave their time, energy, and talents to make the evening such a success. Your dedication created a night we will never forget.

I excited to announce that **enrollment for the 2026–2027** school year will begin this Tuesday!

As we plan for the year ahead, please know that we are always very mindful when making any tuition adjustments. Our goal is to keep a St. Mark's education as affordable as possible while also ensuring we can continue to attract and retain the outstanding teachers and staff who make our school so special. Tuition helps us maintain strong academics, faith-filled formation, and the programs and support our students deserve.

You can expect an email on Tuesday with the registration link and instructions to begin the enrollment process.

Families who **complete enrollment by March 3rd** will receive a **\$25 Early Bird discount**. After that date, we will open enrollment to new families.

Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Mark's. I am so grateful to be part of this incredible community, and I am already looking forward to another wonderful year together. Have a blessed weekend and a great week ahead!

Blessings,
Donna Gordon

Click here to see the 2026-2027 registration tuition rates.

Happy Valentine's Day



Applications are now being accepted for Office positions for the 2026–2027 school year. **Click here** to view the job description, and **click here** to complete the Diocesan application. Please submit a cover letter, resume with references and application to **dgordon@stmarkschoolboise.com**.



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.

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](#)

Upcoming Dates

2/18- Wed: Ash Wednesday, Student Body Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Miss Hatfield's 6th grade

2/25- Wed: Lenten Retreat

One Can
One Goal
One Heart



Bring in
ONE
canned
good by
Feb. 24th

As an act of service, our entire school will participate in a canned food drive. We kindly ask that each student bring **one can of food** to their classroom. On February 25th, we will donate the collected items to the St. Mark's Food Bank by forming a special "food bank food chain."

Please no glass jars

ASH WEDNESDAY

— THE BEGINNING OF LENT —



WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Palm branches blessed on Palm Sunday of the previous year are burned to create ashes which will be imposed on the faithful's foreheads.

WHY USE ASHES

Since the Old Testament, ashes have been a symbol of repentance. Imposing it upon the faithful's forehead is a reminder and an invitation to repent, and follow God.

WHAT IS LENT

The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by praying, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

PRAYING FASTING ABSTINENCE



WHAT IS FASTING



One meal a day and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE



Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

DAYS OF FAST

Ash Wednesday Good Friday

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday All Fridays of Lent Good Friday

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."

—Saint Francis of Assisi

Student Spotlight



First graders Adalaine and Blair celebrating an undefeated season with Meta Hoops — Go Dolphins!

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:

Clara S, Noelle G, Jayden K, Caiden D, Roman S, Caleb R, Greta W (2), Jo G, Maddie B, Alexa B, Willa H, Brynlee B, Hunter S, Sawyer H, Austin C, Amaya W, CC S, Aspen C, Charlotte S, Owen B, Adrean D, Grant W, Alexa C, Evan B, Raquel C (3), Logan L, Leon R, Marley N, Graham L, Noah M, Lucas L, Jensen S, Amelia M, Jett B, Mary C, Charlotte S, Amaia W, Peter B (3)

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 15

Nurse Heather's birthday
Alternate First Communion Parent Meeting

Monday, February 16

President's Day - No School

Wednesday, February 18

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Ms. Hatfield's 6th grade (Ash Wednesday)

Friday, February 20

Spirit Day

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 22

Ms. Smith's birthday

Tuesday, February 24

Mrs. Maltby's birthday

Wednesday, February 25

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Workman's 5th grade
Lenten Retreat at school

Friday, February 27

Spirit Day
Hallissey Basketball Tournament

Saturday, February 28

Hallissey Basketball Tournament
7:00 p.m. Hallissey Mass (no dance after Mass)
Mr. Rossi's birthday

Home & School

St. Mark's Annual Mom & Son Hangout!

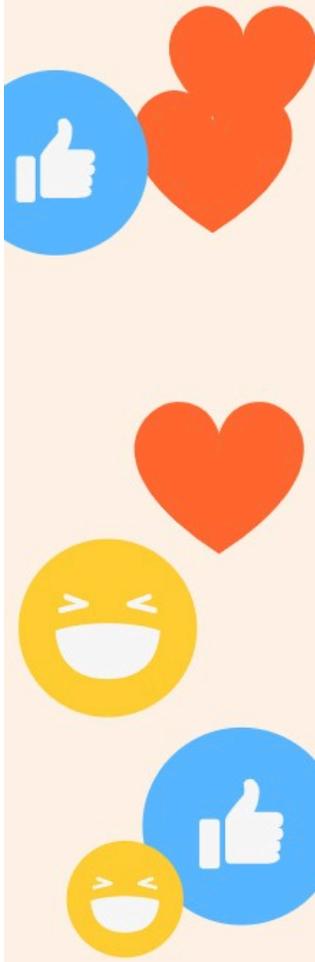
Mark your Calendars for a great day out
celebrating Moms & Sons!



Save the Date:

Sun May 17th

More information to follow!



SAVE THE
DATE

Daddy Daughter Dance

Theme: Candy Land

When? Sat, April 11th

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Where? St. Mark's School Gym





This year's Dinner Auction was a boot stompin' fun time.

Thank you to Catherine Paczocha, Michelle Downing, Jenny Baxter and their entire team of volunteers who made the evening an amazing event. Thank you also to all the families who completed their Volunteer Hours and contributed to the success of the evening.

Together We Rise!

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Hallsiey Basketball Tournament Volunteers Needed

Click on the link below to sign up to volunteer. Don't forget to log your Volunteer Hours in your FamilyPortal

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P5yGbne5Y_zEdHPY7gVuMTnFmoFqIMUn42FWWuwnYQY/edit?usp=sharing

Please send this to anyone that you think would be interested in getting involved and needing some service hours. We appreciate all of the help!

Get [your Volunteer Hours](#) by helping in the lunchroom. We need help to be able to serve HOT LUNCH every day to our students. Come into the office and sign up on the hot lunch calendar.

Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Tuesday (17)—

Wednesday (18)—LaMott, O'Neill

Thursday (19)—

Friday (20)—Cavazos

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)



Watch for an email from FACTS by Tuesday which has the Student Reenrollment documents for the 2026-2027 school year. If you haven't received the link by Wednesday evening, please contact **Marie Anderson** in the school office.



No School on Monday, February 16.



is February 18. Students will receive ashes at our regular Student Body Mass at 8:30 a.m.

After School Math Program

Provided by Mathnasium at
St. Mark's Catholic School

What is Mathnasium?

Mathnasium is a fun, dynamic, reward-based approach that is proven to accelerate math learning and improve math confidence!



**Special Discounted Rate for St Mark's Families.
Beginning February 18th!**

**\$300/Month for 2 Weekly - One Hour Sessions
4:00pm - 5:00pm Monday and Wednesday**

Price includes after care from 3:00-4:00pm
Sessions take place after school at St. Mark's



Scan this code to
sign up or to get
more information



Questions? Contact Us

✉ meridian@mathnasium.com

☎ Call or text (208) 888-0020

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

SAINT MARK'S
- CATHOLIC SCHOOL -

**MARDI GRAS
BEAD SALE**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
BEFORE SCHOOL

BEADS ARE 2 FOR \$1

BEADS CAN BE WORN TO SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
WITH REGULAR UNIFORMS.





Thank you to our visitors from Go Team Therapy Dogs who visited the school this week. Our students love visits from our furry friends.

A heartfelt thank you to the Stanley Family for treating our staff to Starbucks Frappuccinos for Valentine's Day! We also truly appreciate all the delicious goodies brought to the staff lounge to sweeten our day.

February Menu changes:

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday) - Baked Potato Bar

Wednesday, February 25 (Student Lenten Retreat) - Simple Soup Meal



St. Mark's School is in need of Substitute Teachers. If you or someone you know has a higher ed degree, associates or higher and have classroom experience (we can work with you on this), we would love to have you fill out an application. **Click here** to complete the fillable application, print and turn it in to Mrs. Anderson in the school office.

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.



tickets



bracket



program



breakfast

FEB 27

FRIDAY

Opening rounds of games

FEB 28

SATURDAY

Games all day

Team Mass at St.
Mark's @ 7:00 pm

MARCH 1

SUNDAY

Breakfast @ 8-11 am
Co-ed @ 12:30
Girls @ 2:00
Boys @ 3:30

Preschool Happenings



This Friday the 13th was filled with joy, blessings, love, and fun. We began our morning in Adoration, and got to present some of our school's sweethearts with a Valentine and a song.



Church Connection

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

St. Mark's Catholic Church

LENT SCHEDULE

Begins February 18th



Ash Wednesday
February 18
8:30am, Noon, 6:30pm



Stations of the Cross
Fridays Noon & 6pm



KofC Fish Fry
March 13 @ 5:45pm



Confessions
March 26
6:30pm-8pm



Living Stations
March 27
1:30pm & 6pm



Holy Thursday Mass
April 2 @ 6:30pm



Good Friday
Divine Mercy
April 3 @ 3pm



Good Friday
Veneration of the Cross
April 3 @ 6:30pm



Basket Blessing
April 4 @ Noon



Easter Vigil
April 4 @ 8pm



Easter Mass!
April 5
7am, 8:30am & 11am

Easter egg hunt for
kids 0-9
after 8:30am & 11am Masses



Please join us!
208-375-6651
stmarksboise.org
7960 W. Northview St.
Boise, ID 83704



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

MARCH 13TH - 5:45PM

\$12/PERSON OR
\$45/FAMILY OF FOUR
*STAY FOR THE IRISH
DANCERS!



Notes from the Nurse

Do You Know the Difference?

HEART ATTACK vs. CARDIAC ARREST



CIRCULATION

A blockage or narrowing of the coronary artery, cuts off or reduces blood flow to the heart, causing damage due to lack of oxygen.



ELECTRICAL

A malfunction in the heart's electrical system causes the heart to stop beating abruptly.



SYMPTOMS



MAY OCCUR
DAYS OR WEEKS BEFORE
SYMPTOMS ARE RECOGNIZED

- Chest Pain
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Difficulty Breathing

MAY OCCUR
MOMENTS BEFORE
LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS & COLLAPSE

- Collapse
- Unconscious
- Not Breathing
- No Pulse



TAKE ACTION



UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

Every minute matters! Whether you suspect it's cardiac arrest or a heart attack, The first step is always to call 911 or another emergency number.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT A
HEART ATTACK

Call 911
or another emergency number.

Chew & Swallow Aspirin
unless allergic or told not to by a doctor.

Take Nitroglycerin
If you think you're having a heart attack, take it as prescribed. If you're *not prescribed* nitroglycerin, do *not* take someone else's.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT
CARDIAC ARREST

Call 911
or another emergency number.

Start CPR
Learn how in under 90 seconds:
PennMedicine.org/CPR.

Use an AED
(Automated External Defibrillator)
if there is one nearby.

Share the Knowledge & You Could Save a Life.



Penn Medicine

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.



Saint Alphonsus

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

Notes from the Counselor

50 THINGS YOU CAN CONTROL

by WholeHearted School Counseling!

How you respond to challenges.

Following through with your responsibilities.

When and how you say what you need.

The goals you create for yourself.

Owning up to your mistakes.

How much effort you put forth in all things.

How you take care of yourself.

When you ask for help.

How much exercise you do.

When and how often you smile.

What you focus on in this very moment.

Doing activities that mean something to you.

The kind of attitude you have.

Getting enough rest and/or sleep.

Who you ask for help.

Respecting (or not) other people's boundaries.

When you show empathy.

How you act in different situations.

If you focus on the negatives or positives.

How you talk to and treat yourself.

When and if you forgive others.

The words you use & how you communicate.

How you deal with & relate to your feelings.

Whether or not you help someone.

Choosing to accept and/or let go.

How truthful and honest you are.

How you interpret and perceive things.

If and when you get back up & try again.

How organized you are.

How you treat other people.

How polite (or not) you are.

How you show others you care about them.

Whether or not you keep your word.

What coping tools you use.

How you hold your body (like your posture).

When you practice gratitude.

How you deal with mistakes & failure.

Learning more about what makes you curious.

Unplugging and going outside (or not).

Expressing what you hope for.

When you ignore behavior that annoys you.

Treating yourself & others with compassion.

When you talk about your thoughts & feelings.

With whom I make & keep friends with.

When you take slow, mindful breaths.

Working (or not) on your goals.

What you believe.

Deciding what your boundaries are.

When you listen to others.

Whether or not you stop & smell the roses.

Sarah Lynch, St. Mark's School Counselor

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.

St. Mark's School | 7503 W. Northview St. | Boise, ID 83704 US

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