



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 Families of St. Mark's School



The lectionary readings for this coming 4th Sunday in Ordinary Times present us several important themes. Principal among them is the theme of humility....supported by an absolute confidence in our Lord. Most of us struggle with humility at times. We naturally desire to be recognized for our accomplishments, or admired for certain attributes we express.

In the readings from the prophet Zephaniah and Paul's First Letter to the young church in Corinth, we encounter the clear teaching that the humble and contrite heart, the heart that considers oneself of lesser importance than others is the more preferable and honorable way of life. This is not to suggest that we maintain a negative internal dialogue about or selves, nor should we embrace some unhealthy critical self assessment. Rather, we are at our healthiest or best self when we engage each day with a true humility, an honest self assessment that acknowledges that our accomplishments or successes are from God...not ourselves.

Our familiar Gospel reading from Matthew amplifies this point in Our Lord's teaching on the mount. He employs eight beatitudes to describe the ideal disposition for His followers. Interestingly, He chooses "poor in spirit" as the first teaching point. Scripture scholars interpret this as a "poverty of arrogance" meaning....keeping a realistic and humble attitude about one's self. A person of humble spirit is not arrogant...not self promoting, not seeking one's own advancement at the expense of others. (This is very different from doing one's best in a competitive setting). A humble person has a realistic understanding of their abilities and talents, and does not need to be celebrated for their successes. A truly humble person places all of their confidence in Christ, and their most treasured attribute is His presence in their life.

Let us continue to embrace the blessedness of humility, and help lift each other up as we rise together in our conformance to our Lord's desires for us.

I am so grateful for the many prayers, video messages, well wishes, and cards you sent me these past two weeks. I am back home from the hospital and recovering well. I look forward to being back on campus soon. I miss you all very much.

Together we Rise

Fr. John

Letter from our Principal

Dear St. Mark's Families,



What an outstanding Catholic Schools Week it has been! We were thrilled to host our first House System St. Mark's Family Religion Bowl, with the Holy Eucharist Family claiming the victory and the Blessed Virgin Mary Family finishing as our runner-up—well done to all of our students for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and faith on display.

Wednesday's All-Schools Mass was truly beautiful. There is something incredibly powerful about nearly 1,700 students coming together to sing, pray, and worship as one Catholic community.

Of course, Catholic Schools Week would not be complete without you. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission of fostering excellence rooted in our faith.

Congratulations as well to the Holy Eucharist Family for winning the "Make a Change Challenge!" In just six days, our school raised \$1,357.07 to support the building of schools and housing in Haiti, with the Holy Eucharist Family contributing an impressive \$231.96. Your generosity and compassion truly reflect the heart of our St. Mark's community.

Be sure to check out the many photos capturing the faith-filled joy and fun of Catholic Schools Week—you'll see just how special this week was for our students.

Looking ahead, registration for the 2026–2027 school year is right around the corner. Next week's Friday Facts will include the school calendar for the upcoming year, along with tuition information and enrollment instructions.

Together We Rise—thank you for being such an essential part of the St. Mark's family.

Blessings,
Donna



Policy Highlight

Appropriate Use of Digital Citizenship

To promote safer digital learning, ALL Chromebooks are monitored using LANSCHOOL software.

- St. Mark's Catholic School issued Chromebooks should be used for educational purposes only and students are to adhere to the St. Mark's Catholic School rules at all times.
- Student will not use the Chromebook to bully or harass other people.
- Technologies such as OpenAI, ChatGPT, Bard, and others are not to be used to create content for submission, such as responding to questions, creating papers, writing essays, answering math problems, or completing any homework, unless a teacher approves its usage. Software to detect AI usage is used.
- Wireless headphones, such as Airpods, etc. are not allowed. Wired headphones may only be used with teacher permission.

- Wearables, such as Smartwatches, Fitness trackers, etc. are not allowed. Students with medical needs may obtain a medical exemption through the school.

By signing this agreement, I am accepting the terms of this agreement. I agree to be financially responsible for the replacement cost should the Chromebook be lost, stolen, or damaged. This includes any damage or loss that occurs on campus.

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

2/4- Wed: Student Body Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Mrs. Lee's Kindergarten
2/11- Wed: First Communion Parent Meeting @ 6:30pm
2/25- Wed: All School Lenten Retreat

Thank you to all the students who participated in our first BE THE LIGHT challenge! It was incredible to see all the ways people chose to be the light. Below are some of the ways our students were the light.

Grand Prize Winner: Hunter E.

Winning Family: St. Joan of Arc

"I said good morning at church to everybody."

"Call my grandma saying I love her."

"My brother was upset so I tried to help him."

"A girl looked left out so I hung out with her."

"I prayed for someone who was disrespectful to me."

"Gave a prize I earned to my sister."

"Followed along in the kids Mass book."

"Wrote a sweet and uplifting card to a friend."

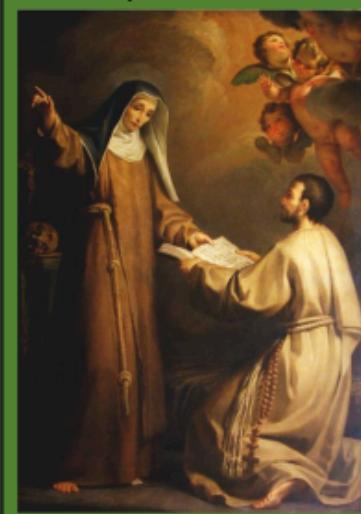
"I comforted my mom when she said she had a bad day."

Are you interested in helping at our upcoming Lenten retreat? If so please contact Trina Hauck

thauck@stmarksschoolboise.com



Saint Hyacintha Mariscotti



Student Spotlight



CSW Alumni Breakfast was attended by many of our St. Mark's graduates now attending BK.



Madelynn and Allyson were baptized at St. Mark's Church on Sunday night. Welcome to the Family of God!

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:

Tatyana B, Sybil B, Ollie C (2), Kingston S, Terra R, Chris U, Aspen C (2), John W, Mike F, Jase W, Lucia F, Clara J, Charlee N, Banks P, Mariana F, Kaysen T, Amaya W (2), Celeste H, Greta W, Caroline S, Brynn K, Patrick N, Austin C, Sawyer H, Andrew F, CC S (2), Georgia B, Marley N, Kinsley P, 8th grade class, Isla A, Colby R (2)

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 1

Mr. Bazhinov's birthday

Monday, February 2

National School Counseling Week

Tuesday, February 3

6:30 p.m. Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, February 4

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Lee's Kindergarten class
Dinner Auction Class Projects displayed in entry

Friday, February 6

Teacher Inservice - No School

Progress Reports in FACTS FamilyPortal

Mrs. Schuette's birthday

Saturday, February 7

5:30 p.m. St. Mark's School Dinner Auction at Bishop Kelly

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 8

Scout Sunday

Mrs. Arentz's birthday

Monday, February 9

5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Home & School Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Jensen's Kindergarten class

1:00 p.m. Go Team Therapy Dogs

6:30-7:30 p.m. First Communion Parent Meeting

Mrs. Lee's birthday

Thursday, February 12

8:15 a.m. Class Photos by Parker Portraits (**no hoodies, crew or 1/4 zips allowed in photos, polos only**)

Ms. Murray's birthday

Friday, February 13

Spirit Day

School Adoration

Diocesan Marriage Retreat at St. Mark's Church

Saturday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Diocesan Marriage Retreat at St. Mark's Church

Home & School



Dinner Auction Volunteer Opportunities

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944A4AB28A6FBC34-61227870-2026#/>

Each family must volunteer 6 hours for the Dinner Auction to help make it a success!

On Wednesday, February 4, come to the entry of the school to see this year's Dinner Auction Class Projects display.



Volunteer Opportunities

TO VOLUNTEER IN ANY CAPACITY AT ST. MARK'S SCHOOL,

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

Monday (2)—

Tuesday (3)—

Wednesday (4)—LaMott

Thursday (5)—

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

No School on Friday, February 6, due to Teacher Inservice.

Catholic Schools Week



All Schools Mass - over 1,700 students and staff from Treasure Valley Catholic Schools gathered together

Religion Bowl



The winner of the fun competition was the Holy Eucharist Family



2nd place was the Blessed Virgin Mary Family



Family Colors Day

Dress like a Staff Member

In only 6 days our families collected - \$1,357.07 for SISTER PAESIE AND THE KIZITO FAMILY. Way to go St. Mark's!



The next LIVE SEW class will be held on **Wednesday, February 4 @ 6:30 p.m.** at St. Mark's School. **THIS LIVE CLASS IS REQUIRED 1 TIME.** You are also required to view

the video "Protecting God's Children Online Awareness Session 4.0", which will be available after you register. Go to virtusonline.org, create an account, click on register for training, find the class at St. Mark's on February 4 and sign up.



Thank you to Dr. Joe and Mrs. Lynch for all the work they do with our students. We are so fortunate to have such a great team!



Class Photo Day is Thursday, February 12. Order forms, with each student's unique ID, will be sent home in student folders. 8th graders will have graduation photos (individual and group) on April 11.

February Menu changes:



Send your friend a
Valentine's Day
GRAM

\$1.00 each

Grams will be sold before and after school

Monday, February 9th

Tuesday, February 10th

Wednesday, February 11th

Grams will be delivered on Friday, February 13th!





Valentine's Bake Sale

February 12th
**Please bring in treats for
us to sell (any time you
spend baking will count as
service hours) or help sell
during your recess (sign up
sheets in the library)**

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

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>

BUY TICKETS TODAY!



BASQUE KNIGHT

Sunday, February 1, 2026

5:00pm-8:00pm

Bishop Kelly High School "Reg" Gym

\$20 for Adults

\$15 for students (11-18) & Seniors (65+)

Menu

Baked Butter Cod

Fish Soloma or chicken

Chorizo & Vegetable Paella

Salad w/ Grandma Epi's Salad Dressing

Dinner Rolls

\$5 Hotdogs, chips and dessert (10 and under)

Soft drinks, beer, wine & Kalimotxos available for purchase

*Our Basque Dancers will perform twice this year!

5:30pm and 6:30pm

Click on this link to purchase your tickets - https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=2a09ed64-5b37-4c7f-af35-81fe449bde71&envId=p-K_Fo5SxxM0msiGTrCY1dSg&zone=usa

TVCS Events/Sports



[Click here](#) for the TVCS athletic schedule.

IVCS

DANCE

*Dress your best in
black & white*

01/30/2026 7:00 TO 9:00 PM
ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BRING \$5 AND A CAN OF FOOD

HOSTED BY
SACRED HEART AND ST. IGNATIUS

This dance is for 7th & 8th graders only. Cost to attend is \$5 and 2 cans of food. Dress must follow our Dress Code.



We have had a wonderful week celebrating Catholic Schools Week! We are so blessed to be a part of this Catholic school and community. We had some special visitors from Bishop Kelly High School drop in to say hi this week following the annual Alumni breakfast/open house.

This sure is a good lookin' round-up of "Boots, Buffalo, & Blessings" wranglers. We are working on the letter G this week - so they are saying "Giddy-up!"



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

Guidelines for Keeping Sick Students Home

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing:



- **Fever:** If your child has a fever of 100.0°F or greater, has body aches, new onset headache or looks or acts sick, they may be infectious. Students should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications, before returning to school..
- **Vomiting and/or diarrhea:** If your child has vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24hours, they should remain home to prevent the spread of illness
- **Congestion or Runny Nose:** If your child has new congestion or runny nose with a fever, they should remain home until a 24 hour resolution of the fever.
- **Sore Throat:** If your child has a sore throat and fever, or a severe sore throat with difficulty swallowing, they should remain home. If diagnosed with Strep throat students may return to school after taking prescribed medication for 24 hours. If your child is unable to swallow liquids or food, contact your doctor immediately.
- **Cough:** if your child has a new cough with fever or persistent cough with vomiting, please keep them home until the fever has resolved. If she/he has difficulty breathing, call 911.
- **Contagious Diseases:** You should keep your child at home if they might spread a contagious disease to other children. Please inform the school if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease such as chicken pox or impetigo. Your child may return to school after taking prescribed medication for 24 hours or their healthcare provider has cleared them to return.
- **Head lice:** Treatment is required before returning to school. The school nurse can provide education regarding treatment and control of head lice as needed.
- **Pinkeye/Conjunctivitis:** Students may return to school after taking prescribed medication for 24 hours or if cleared by a provider.

Guidelines for Returning to School

STUDENTS MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL 24 HOURS AFTER RESOLUTION OF FEVERS and VOMITING/DIARRHEA WITHOUT THE USE OF SYMPTOM REDUCING MEDICATION

Always seek medical advice for any concerns and contact your primary care physician with any concerns.

Thank you for helping to reduce the spread of illness!

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

"No" Is Not a Four-letter Word. From Love and Logic v.3.3

Children need to know that their parents are able to say "no" and mean it. However, it is unusual for them to thank us for having the strength to set limits for them. Instead, they usually do all they can to test those limits.

This can be confusing. Why are our children so testy when we are doing what is best for them? Limits provide the security they need to develop self-confidence.

Those children who lack external controls often misbehave in various ways. It is their attempt to force us to provide the limits that will allow them to feel confident about their place in the world. Children with little or no external controls also often suffer from low self-esteem.

It appears that children test us to make sure that the limits are firm enough to provide the security they need. Each youngster seems to have his or her own special testing routine. Some kids use anger, some use guilt, and some are sneaky. Others prefer to forget things as a way of testing our resolve when we say "no."

I wish I could say that children will give us a vote of confidence after they have tested our limits and found them to be strong. But they never say, "Thanks, Dad. I feel a lot more secure now that I know you mean what you say. I appreciate you loving me enough to set limits."

Instead, they may pout, complain, stomp around, run to their rooms, whine, or talk back. This often leaves parents angry and confused.

It helps to remember that children hear the word "no" far too often. In fact, it has been shown that parents of two-year-olds typically say "no," in some form, about 77% of the time. No wonder our children get sick of hearing it. The word "no" just seems to be a "call to arms." In other words, "no" is a fighting word.

Youngsters often wage war against "no" in a very subtle way. They try to get the parent to do all the thinking while they stand back and judge the quality of the work. They know that parents who are busy reasoning with them have neither the time nor energy to win the battles.

Caring parents feel guilty about saying "no" and are soon hooked into lots of thinking and explaining. All the youngster has to do is interrupt from time to time with, "But Dad, it's just not fair! You just don't understand." In no time, the parent, who is doing all the work, is worn down to the point of giving in: "Oh, all right. Take it! But this is the last time. Don't ask me again."

You can turn the tables on children, forcing them to do most of the thinking. This happens when you replace "no" to one thing by saying "yes" to something else. This is called using "thinking words" instead of "fighting words." Compare the two approaches in the following examples:

Fighting words: "You can't go out to play until you practice your lessons."

Thinking words: "Yes, you may go out to play as soon as you practice your lessons."

Fighting words: "You can't watch television until your chores are done."

Thinking words: "You may watch television as soon as your chores are done."

Most youngsters try to argue when confronted with "thinking words." However, you now have the ammunition to win since you started the conversation with "yes" instead of "no." You no longer need to feel guilty. And you no longer need to justify or explain your position.

You now hold the "state-of-the-art" in arguing in your hands. No matter what your youngster says, simply agree that it is probably true. Then add the word "and" followed by your first sentence. Note the difference in the following two conversations:

Teen: "I need the car to go skiing."

Dad: "You can't use the car until you pay your gas bill."

Teen: "But Dad, I promised my friends."

Dad: "Why don't you make them drive once in a while?"

Teen: "But Dad. You don't like the way they drive. You don't want to have to worry about me, do you?"

Here, Dad is quickly losing control of the conversation. He would be more successful if he could force the teen to do all the thinking. Here's how it's done:

Teen: "I need the car to go skiing."

Dad: "Feel free to use it as soon as your gas bill is paid up."

Teen: "But Dad. I promised my friends."

Dad: "I'm sure that's true ... and feel free to use it as soon as you get it paid."

Teen: "Yea, but then I won't have money for the lift ticket."

Dad: "I bet that's true, too ... and feel free to use it as soon as you get it paid."

Teen: "Gee! All you can think about is money!"

Dad: "That could be true, too ... and ... "

Teen: "Yea, I know. Don't say it again!"

It is rewarding to discover that this technique, called negative assertion, can eliminate fights with our children. Just think how well it might work on the adults at work!

Have another great weekend,

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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