



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

"Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world". (John 1:29)

Dear families and friends of St. Mark's School,

We began the Spring semester at the start of this week, excited about all that we seek to accomplish and enjoy together during the second half of this academic year. The Fall semester was an inspired success, and we continue to recognize each other's efforts to share the light of Christ with everyone we meet each day.



It is fitting that the Spring semester begins with this coming Sunday's celebration of our Lord's baptism, which initiated the start of His public ministry. John the Baptist makes the declarative statement captured by John the Evangelist in his gospel account. Jesus is the Lamb of God. The Spring semester is centered on THE apex event of all of human history. Jesus' death and resurrection. This unparalleled event is true for all people of all cultures and eras. Jesus Christ, who is God become man (the Nativity celebrated at Christmas), will offer Himself as the paschal sacrifice, destroying death and opening the gates of heaven to all who will turn to Him as Lord and Savior. Every sacrifice of the Mass includes this declaration from John the Baptist. Its daily recitation in the Mass is intentional in orienting the conduct of our lives towards the one truth that impacts and unites all of humanity.

Let us continue to lift one another up, celebrating all that unites us, and seek to do His will in all areas of our lives. St. Mark's Church and School is beautifully responding to the needs of the greater Boise region, offering a place of reverence and formation, academic excellence, and the living witness of our Lord's presence among us.

Letter from our Principal



Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy New Year! I pray your family enjoyed a joyful, memory-making holiday season.

We have had a wonderful first week of third quarter. Teachers began the week at Mass with Father Caleb, who then led a meaningful class on virtue. The remainder of Monday was spent collaborating and planning for the quarter ahead.

Report cards are now available for viewing in FACTS through your family portal. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Next week, students in grades one through five will begin MAP testing in Reading, Language Usage, and Math. Results will be shared with you at the end of the quarter. Teachers will use this data to monitor student growth and ensure students are on track to meet their spring goals.

January is a special month as we prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month. We have many fun activities planned as we celebrate the tremendous gift you give your children—the gift of a Catholic education. Throughout the week, we will also offer special prayer opportunities for families and celebrate Mass together with the six other Catholic schools in the valley.

Catholic Schools Week will kick off on Sunday, January 25th, with a Student Council–led Open House for prospective families. Please feel free to invite friends or family members whom you believe would be a wonderful addition to our St. Mark's family.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we rise!

Peace,
Donna Gordon



Retirement Announcement

It is with grateful hearts and a touch of sadness that we share that Rena, "Mrs. Mini Van", and Bobbi, "Mrs. Recess", will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Rena has faithfully served St. Mark's for 28 years and began when her son was in 1st grade, and Bobbi joined our community 28 years ago when her son was in 4th grade, beginning her employment at St. Mark's in 2010. Together, their decades of love, dedication, and quiet service have shaped countless students and families.

Words cannot express how deeply they will be missed.

Let's enjoy and cherish the rest of this school year with them, knowing that St. Mark's is better because of their remarkable service, and we are forever grateful.



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.

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

Upcoming Dates

1/14- **Wed:** Student Body Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Mr. Groninger's 7th grade

1/21- **Wed:** First Communion parent meeting @ 6:30pm

1/25- **Sun:** Student Sponsored Mass presented by 2nd & 3rd grade @ 8:30am

BE THE LIGHT CHALLENGE

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Complete 12 Light filled actions and turn in your form to be entered into the prize drawing.

Let's all Be the Light! Spread kindness, help others and have fun making our school a brighter place!

The school Family with the most participation will earn a special treat!

Signed forms due
January 29th

Parents: Students will bring home *Be the Light* forms next week or you can print them by clicking **HERE**.

Fr. John joined kindergarten for a teaching Mass this week.



Student Spotlight

Does your student have an amazing talent, participated in an event or received an award? Please send a description and photo to schooloffice@stmarksschoolboise.com.

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
DISCIPLINESHIP <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:

Hendrix M, Caiden D, Riley B, Amaia W, Kaysen T, John W, Ember K, June R, Joe Joe B, Jett B, Andrew B, Eleanor B, Jo G, Ly P, Eugene K

Weekly Calendar

Monday, January 12

5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Home & School Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mr. Groninger's 7th grade
Mrs. Torkelson's birthday

Friday, January 16

Spirit Day

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

Wednesday, January 21

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Martin's 7th grade
6:30-7:30 p.m. First Communion Parent Meeting
Mrs. Cox's birthday

Friday, January 23
Spirit Day

Saturday, January 24
St. Mark's Community Night at Idaho Steelheads

Home & School

Thank you to all the families who attended the December Chipotle Community Night. We raised \$361!



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!



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



Mark your calendars for the Daddy/Daughter Dance event on Saturday, April 11. More information will be coming soon.

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 (12)—

Tuesday (13)—

Wednesday (14)—LaMott

Thursday (15)—

Friday (16)—Kretschmer

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



If you haven't paid for and picked up your child's Christmas ornament, it is still available. Email schooloffice@stmarksschoolboise.com to let us know you want to purchase the ornament and \$5.00 will be charged to your FACTS account. The ornament will be sent home with your student(s). **Deadline to pick up is Friday, January 16, when ornaments will be donated.**

Catholic Schools Week **Sunday, January 25 - Friday, January 30**

Open House is Sunday, January 25 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the school. Tours by Student Council, discussions with teachers and staff and registration information available. Please share with your family and friends, you are our greatest marketing tool.



ST. MARK'S
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

JANUARY 25th - JANUARY 30th

Sunday

Celebrating our Parish Staff

8:30 am School Mass hosted by 2nd & 3rd grades
Please wear your school uniform to Mass.

9:00 – 1:00 – St. Mark's School Open House

Monday

Celebrating Our Families

Acknowledging sacrifices and dedication to send us to a Catholic School

Dinner Auction Dress Up – Buffalo, Boots & Blessings

Dress in western attire or school uniform. Jeans and sweats are allowed.

Tuesday

Celebrating Our Students

Exemplifying Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipleship & Excellence

Pajama Day!

Jeans and sweats are allowed.

Wednesday

Celebrating Our Catholic Community

Celebrating and Acknowledging our fellow Catholic Schools
10:00 am School Mass with All Catholic Schools at St. Mark's
Dress in Mass Uniform.

****All students must bring a sack lunch. No hot lunch provided.****

Thursday

Celebrating Our Faculty and Staff

Showing appreciation to all of our teachers and staff members

Trading Places Dress Day

Students dress like staff members and staff members dress like students.

Friday

Celebrating Vocations

Celebrating and Acknowledging our Priests and Deacons

Dress in school family colors that were assigned at the Advent retreat.
Jeans and sweats are allowed. See Friday Facts for color information.

St. Mark's Saint Families 2025 - 2026

Saint	Color
St. Mark's Lion	lilac
Guardian Angel	white
St. Mark the Evangelist	red
St. Teresa of Calcutta	light blue
St. Gertrude the Great	lime green
Holy Eucharist	hot pink
St. Patrick	green
Our Lady of Lourdes	blue
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	black
St. Kateri	brown
St. Michael	turquoise
St. Joseph	orange
Sts. Perpetua & Felicity	purple
St. Joan of Arc	gray
St. Thomas More	lemongrass
St. Francis of Assisi	teal
Blessed Virgin	light brown
St. Thomas Aquinas	yellow

Homeroom teachers will send home reminders as to which saint family your student/s belong to.

Because of All Schools Mass on
Wednesday, January 28,
there will be NO HOT LUNCH.
All students must bring a cold lunch.

Hello 2026 Eighth Grade Parents -

The yearbook is one of our favorite school traditions! Students anticipate reliving the school year through candid photos, student portraits, and event highlights. In just a few months, your child will be bursting with excitement to review the

yearbook! Our yearbook staff is hard at work creating this memorable book, and we have two unique sections dedicated to 8th graders!

Following the tradition of past years, we would like to include a **baby picture** of your 8th grader. Please submit a baby picture of your child to Mrs. Schuette (nschuette@stmarksschoolboise.com) no later than **Friday, February 6th**. This can be done by scanning the baby picture or taking a clear photo of it before emailing. If you are unable to scan or email, feel free to send in an actual baby photo to school. We will return the photo to you when we are finished with our baby picture pages. Please label the photo.

The other tradition of past years is creating a **Personal Display of Affection (PDA)** or ad for your 8th grader. This is a way to support our school and recognize your child as they are about to graduate. This is completely optional, but imagine the surprise when your child finds a personal message from you!

Jostens is our yearbook company this year. If you would like to place an ad for your child, you will create your ad through their website. Their program is very user-friendly. Payment for PDA ads is also done exclusively through Jostens.

We have included ordering instructions below. Previous yearbooks are available in the school office for your viewing if you would like to see examples of PDA ads. All PDA submissions must be received no later than **Friday, February 6th**.

Thank you for supporting our school! If you have any questions, please contact our yearbook advisors, Mrs. Schuette (nschuette@stmarksschoolboise.com) or Mrs. Lynch (slynch@stmarksschoolboise.com).

PDA ad ordering instructions

Step 1: Visit www.shop.memorybook.com

Step 2: Login if returning or new users click 'Register' to create an account using school code: 251067M

Step 3: Buy a yearbook PDA ad through February 6, 2026

Parent ad options:

\$25.00 - 1/8 page ad

\$50.00 - 1/4 page ad

100.00 - half page ad

200.00 - full page ad



SNACK SHACK

**Grab and go snacks are sold
every Monday at recess.**



All items are \$1.00!



RETURNS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH

INFORMATION KNIGHT



MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2026
BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM
IN THE CARLEY CENTER AT BISHOP KELLY

Information Knight is a fun and informative evening for any interested students who will be entering the 9th – 11th grades in the fall of 2026. The night begins in the Carley Athletic Center with a brief presentation about our school. From there, prospective students and their families will be introduced to current seniors, who will lead small group tours of the school. On the tour, participants will have the opportunity to hear from teachers in each department. The evening concludes with an activity fair where students can learn about the many ways to get involved at BK.

RSVP HERE:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp24IFRI_SQlCd4Cwc0JzEV09dVDPHqu0kZQnDijguTkacqw/viewform

We hope you'll join us to learn more about BK! If you have questions about New Student Information Knight, or the admissions process at Bishop Kelly, please contact our Admissions Director Angela Calovich at (208) 375-6010 or acalovich@bk.org.

Applications for the 2026/2027 school year are now open! Click here to start:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyGVdwwJTUCHWJiu8leF9K7xs2YMHOfZHvTdzLqy8rUlu0Dg/viewform>



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](#)

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

SOUTH BOISE **LITTLE LEAGUE**



. Registration is now open and firmly closes February 15th, 2026

Registering on time, and even early if possible, gives the league ample time to make sure uniforms are ordered on time and gives us time to make sure we have volunteer coaches in place

. T-Ball consists of ages four to five. A player member who is league age six and has no prior youth experience may choose to enroll at this level of play

. Rookies (pitching machine/ coach pitch) consists of kid's league aged seven to eight.

. A Minors consists of league players aged nine. This level of play is focused more focused on devolving skills

. AA Minors consists of league ages ten and eleven. This level focuses more on fundamental skills and learning the competitive aspects of the game

. Majors league consists of league ages eleven to twelve. Coaches focus on enhancing the players skills, rules knowledge and situational baseball in a competitive environment

Please visit our website at www.southboisell.com

Thank you, St. Mark's Family, for all the prayers and love I felt during the passing of my mother in December. It's good to be back at school with my favorite people, the students.
Mrs. Rena Mini Van



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



Register at

<https://account.usalacrosse.com/event/view/1f65f170-d6a1-4f0a-b0b7-fdb8c85fdf14>

Preschool Happenings

Happy New Year!

Our preschool students were so happy to come back together after a wonderful Christmas break.

Our letter of the week was J. J is for Jesus!



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

Every Drop Helps!

American Red Cross

208-947-4357

<https://www.redcross.org>



January is National Blood Donor Month.

Due to holiday celebrations, inclement weather, and cold and flu season, the winter months are often a time of reduced donations and an increased risk for blood shortages.

Help ensure that this lifesaving resource is readily available to patients during this time.



Saint Alphonse

A Member of Trinity Health

Parents/Guardians, join us
to learn about ways to



PREVENT YOUTH VAPING

**Attend this virtual presentation and enter
to win a \$100 gift card!**

You will learn about:

- Current trends and health effects of vaping
- Best strategies for starting a conversation with your child
- Free resources available to you & your child

FEB 23rd

6:30-7:30 p.m.



Scan to register!

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

Dear Parents,

In the month of January, I will be going into all classrooms to teach our *Circle of Grace* curriculum. This is a safe environment curriculum for children and young people that we are required by the Archdiocese to

teach. Below is a bit more information regarding this curriculum.

Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, we have a program for the safe environment education of children and young people.

Diocese/eparchies will establish 'safe environment' programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. Dioceses/eparchies will make clear to clergy and members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse. Article 12 – Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

This program is called *Circle of Grace*. It is meant to supplement and be integrated into the excellent programs and curricula for the formation of children and young people in our schools and religious education programs. *Circle of Grace* aims to equip our children and young people by arming them with essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our faith. This program helps children and young people to understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit.

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist children and young people to recognize God's love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a Circle of Grace. You can imagine your own Circle of Grace by putting your arms above your head then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back, holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality.

Why is it important to help our children understand the Circle of Grace?

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help children and young people understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, especially parents, as they strive to provide a safe and protective environment, hold the responsibility to help children and young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly safe and protective environment is one where children and young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

How is the Circle of Grace Program different from other protection programs?

According to research, one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen. Many protection programs focus on "stranger danger"; however, up to ninety percent (90%) of the time the perpetrator of abuse is known to the child or young person such as a relative or family friend. Circle of Grace goes beyond just protection by helping children and young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like any further information.

Sarah Lynch
St. Mark's School Counselor

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

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

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