



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.

Most of us will gather with family and friends this coming Thursday to celebrate a day of Thanksgiving. While many have some serious struggles, and we all have some, what we know can unify us is a shared sense of gratitude for the gifts, joys, and moments of grace we all experience as well. We are blessed to acknowledge the truth of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to reside in a country where one is free to express and live their faith, and not be openly persecuted for doing so. (Recognizing that there are examples of religious persecution taking place in our great country). We are blessed to work or study within, or support the St. Mark's School, whose proud legacy of success in forming young men and women for Christ continues on through this current year.



Below is a prayer offered for us by the US Council of Catholic Bishops. Perhaps this prayer, or another that inspires you, could be offered as you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving.

**Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.
We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the
land and the challenge of the cities.
We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.
We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

I know I am very thankful to be serving you, and walking with you.

Together we Rise,

Fr. John

Letter from our Principal



Dear St. Mark's Families,

Happy Thanksgiving! We are all looking forward to the upcoming break. May your family have a blessed holiday, and may you find moments to pause and reflect on the many blessings in your lives.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of cards and gifts yesterday during Principal Appreciation Day. I have enough cards to read a few each day for the rest of the year! I am beyond grateful to serve as the principal of this beautiful school family.

When we return from break, please remember that we will be following our winter dress policy. Students must wear pants, or skorts with leggings or knee-highs. As quickly as this year is flying by, they'll be in lighter clothing again before we know it.

Please also consider applying for the Idaho State Educational Tax Credit. Applications will be accepted beginning in January, and you must have a TAP account created by December 1st. More details are included below. All families are encouraged to apply, as funds will first be awarded to those with the greatest financial need, with additional funds distributed in order of application.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Thanksgiving!

Donna Gordon



Support Our STREAM Program!

Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity that encourages communities to give back. This year, we are asking for your support to help us enhance our STREAM program—Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math.



Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Your tax-deductible donation will provide:

- Math manipulatives
- Science experiment supplies
- Art materials
- Robotics and engineering tools

Every gift—big or small—helps our students learn, create, and explore in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Thank you for helping our Lions rise!



Scan this code to pay



Policy Highlight

CLICK HERE to learn more about the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit

- Everyone is encouraged to apply.
- Families meeting income level qualifications will be awarded funds first, then funds will be dispersed to remaining applicants.
- TAP accounts must be set up by December 1st in order to apply for the tax credit.

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

Together We Rise •



SAINT MARK'S
—CATHOLIC SCHOOL—

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

11/30- Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

12/3- Wednesday: Student Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Mrs. Brady's 1st grade

12/3- Wednesday: 4th Grade Teaching Mass with Fr. John @ 8:15am

12/4- Thursday: School Advent Retreat: Prepare the Way Together

12/5- Friday: Visit from St. Nicholas

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

Where: St. Mark's School Chapel

When: Wednesday, December 3rd 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 in the Mass.



Hope

@salesianlink



Parent Prayer Group

Every Wednesday

8:10-8:25am

Church Resurrection Room

Across from the parish office

St. Mark's parents warmly invite you to join them in prayer prior to our Student Body Mass.

All are welcome!

Volunteers Needed for Advent Retreat



Thursday, December 4th

We are looking for volunteers to help at morning or afternoon shifts.

Can't make it day of? No problem! We also have craft materials that need to be prepared ahead of time that you can take home.

Please click **HERE** to learn more and sign up.

If you can volunteer to help with the Advent Retreat, please click on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA4A82FA5F4C70-60327173-advent#/>

Student Spotlight



Last weekend Connor participated in the Idaho Taekwondo Championship and took 3rd in the board-breaking division.



Both Kindergarten classes earned money (fake pennies) to buy from our prize buckets. Instead of buying for themselves, they bought food from the classroom "grocery store" and filled our wagon with food for the food bank! Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Lee are so incredibly proud of them! We delivered the food together on Thursday.



Mrs. Schuette won the costume contest at Harry Potter Trivia this week!

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:

Hank W, Adaline W, Jane N, Alexa B, William D, John B, Terra R, Quan P (3), Cailyn J, Malakai P, Genevieve S, Caleb W, Samuel A, David C, Blair K, Adalaine C (2), Hendrix M, Ly P, Kaysen T, Marshall B, Jo G, Delta M, Banks P

Weekly Calendar

Monday, November 24 - Friday, November 28

Thanksgiving Break

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 1

Fr. John's birthday

Tuesday, December 2

Giving Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Foundation Meeting

Mrs. Bachmeier's birthday

Wednesday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Brady's 1st grade

4th grade Teaching Mass in school chapel

Thursday, December 4

Student Advent Retreat at the Church

Friday, December 5

Special visitor to all grades for Feast of St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 6

Feast of St. Nicholas

7:00 p.m. Church Advent Concert

Home & School

St. Mark's Home & School Annual CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST



**DUE:
DECEMBER 1**

The Home & School association needs help creating their Christmas card!
Three winning pieces of art will be featured on the H&S cards which will be sent to school patrons this holiday season.

EVERY STUDENT WHO ENTERS WILL GET (1) FREE DRESS PASS!

CONTEST RULES:

- Students K-8 are eligible to participate
- Artwork must be 8.5"x 11" and must be original (no tracing, copying, or adult help)
- Artwork should be religious in theme
- All flat artwork accepted, including crayons, markers, pencil, and paints (hint: bold colors or patterns with lots of contrast copy the best onto cards)
- Include the artist's name and grade on the back
- Each student may submit only one (1) entry.
- Artwork must be turned into the school office by 3pm on Monday, December 1, 2025
- Entries will be judged on content and artistry by the H&S Board
- One (1) winner will be chosen from each of the following three age groups: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th
- Contest winners will be announced by December 15
- All artwork submitted will be displayed at school during the month of December
- The three (3) winners will receive 12 Christmas cards with their own artwork on it to send to their families

Questions? Contact Brett Packard at brettonpackard@gmail.com

Every student who enters gets a free dress pass, 1 entry per student.

Looking for Christmas gift ideas,
check out RaiseRight to order gift cards to give as Christmas gifts.

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



EARN
\$1,000+
per year

Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes
out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what
matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house.
Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



amazon



STARBUCKS™



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway. I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer.

For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

Order your physical gift cards for Christmas gifts. Deadline to place orders to receive in time for Christmas break is Friday, December 5. Scan the QR code below to start your order. St. Mark's Enrollment Code is 3F76DEEB22554



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Click the QR code to be directed to RaiseRight to get started with your order.



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.

Advent Retreat Volunteer Opportunities

Sign Up to volunteer for the Advent retreat (either preparing materials beforehand or day of)
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA4A82FA5F4C70-60327173-advent#/>

Sign up to bring snack supplies for Advent retreat
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084CA5A62AA3F85-60629021-advent/176874790#/>

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 (1)—
Tuesday (2)—
Wednesday (3)—LaMott, Martin
Thursday (4)—Cafferty
Friday (5)—Berkoff, Antonoplos

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

Thanksgiving Break is Monday, November 24-Friday, November 28.



Thank you to all our families who attended the St. Mark's School calendar last Sunday. It was a great community event.

**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.

The **December Lunch Menu** is ready for viewing.

Click here to view the December Monthly Calendar.



We are partnering with St. Vincent de Paul to help collect new winter hats, scarves and gloves for those in need in our community. Please consider donating this winter season if you are able. A collection box will be available near the school entrance.



Teen Gifts



We are also collecting stocking stuffers for teens. Please see the list of suggestions below.

- . Jewelry
- . Makeup
- . Cologne
- . Keychains

- . Portable speaker
- . Fidgets
- . Card games
- . Scrunchies

- . Wallets
- . Pens
- . Ear buds
- . Markers

Special thanks to the Rubalcava family for creating the lion stamps for the art class Christmas ornaments.



This year's Christmas Program, featuring K-5, 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.**



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>

Congratulations to Christopher U and Spencer C for winning prizes in the Catholic Charities Christmas Card Art contest.



BK Music Dept. Christmas Concert - Wednesday, December 10 @ 7:00pm (REG Gymnasium)

Admission is 2 non-perishable food items for the Idaho Foodbank, OR \$5 for adults, \$3 for HS students, \$2 for younger students and senior citizens, and kids age 5 or younger are free. The award-winning BK ensembles will be performing a wide variety of music, doors will open to the public at 6:30pm. The REG is the old gym located in the main building just past the fountain through the front entrance.

TVCS Events/Sports



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

Preschool Happenings



We wish you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving! Here is a picture of some little turkeys in our Cubs Combo class.



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 Council
of Catholic Women presents:

NOEL BOUTIQUE

NOVEMBER 22- 9AM-5PM
NOVEMBER 23- 8AM-1PM

ST. MARK'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
7960 W. NORTHVIEW ST.



START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!
GIFT WRAPPING AVAILABLE
FREE ENTRY

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

10:30am
Food Blessing



Diabetes Awareness Month

Type 1

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disorder that makes the pancreas unable to produce insulin. Without insulin, blood glucose levels rise.

Because people with type 1 diabetes do not make insulin, they must take insulin every day to control their blood sugar.

Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in childhood/adolescence.



Signs and Symptoms

- Increased and significant thirst
- Increased urination (babies may need very frequent diaper changes and toilet-trained children may start wetting themselves and/or wetting the bed more often)
- Dehydration
- Increased appetite, but weight loss instead of gain
- Blurred vision
- Abdominal pain
- Persistent nausea and vomiting
- Excess drowsiness or fatigue

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.



GRATITUDE PROMPTS



1. A **strength**  of mine for which I am grateful is...
2. Something **money**  can't buy  that I'm grateful for is...
3. Something that **comforts me**  that I'm grateful for is...
4. Something that's **funny** for which I'm grateful for is... 
5. Something **in nature**  that I'm grateful for is...
6. **A memory**  I'm grateful for is....
7. Something that **changes**  that I'm grateful for is....
8. A **challenge**  I'm grateful for is....
9. Something **interesting**  that I'm grateful for is...
10. Something **beautiful**  I'm grateful for is...

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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