

Volume 10, Issue 9- October 10, 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 Families of St. Mark's School

Our readings from the second Book of Kings and from Luke's Gospel carry a message of thankfulness, or its lack, in response to God's blessings in our lives.

Whether Naaman, the great commander of the army in Aram (Syria) as told in the Book of Kings in our First Reading, or, the Ten Lepers from Luke's account of our Lord healing them, the message is the same. Are we truly grateful for all of the blessings bestowed by God in our lives?

It is a common response to focus on our needs. They are ever-present, and can take many forms. We are encouraged by Jesus to bring all of our needs to prayer. But we should equally, if not more so, bring our gratitude and thanksgiving to God. We should rise each day with an "attitude of gratitude" for the many blessings we each enjoy. A new day of life, new opportunities to learn more about Him who loves us through our time at St. Mark's School, new experiences in learning and friendship.

Let us commit to living each day with an attitude of gratitude. Our willingness to bring that positive attitude to school each day invites and inspires others to do the same,

Together we Rise,

Fr. John



Letter from our Principal



A Beautiful Week at St. Mark's

What a wonderful week we had at St. Mark's! We began with morning prayer as Father John led us in a decade of the Rosary. We'll continue this tradition each Monday throughout October, the month dedicated to Our Lady.



Farmstead Fun

Our community night at Farmstead was fantastic—it was such a joy to see so many St. Mark's families there! The pig's snout was quite slimy, but I always enjoy "hamming" it up with the kids.



Personalized Learning with IXL

Teachers have been busy entering MAP data into our online learning platform, **IXL**, which helps us create personalized learning plans for each student. IXL identifies every child's strengths and areas for growth, providing tailored practice in math and reading so students can build confidence and grow at their own pace.



Faith in Action

Father John celebrated a beautiful teaching Mass in our chapel on Wednesday for our 6th graders and joined us again today for Adoration and classroom visits. We are truly blessed by his leadership and his ongoing support of our students and staff.



Upcoming Events

Next week we'll welcome some very special visitors—**therapy dogs!** They'll be in the gymnasium for students to meet, which always brings smiles all around. It's also the **final week of the first quarter**, and the following week we'll hold **Parent-Teacher Conferences**. Please see this edition of *Friday Facts* for sign-up details. Middle school parents do not need an appointment; all middle school teachers will be set up in the gym for open conversations.

A week like this reminds us that when we pray, learn, and celebrate together, **Together We Rise**—as one faith-filled community united in Christ's love.

"Let all that you do be done in love."
— 1 Corinthians 16:14

Donna Gordon



Policy Highlight

Thank you to all of our students who participated in last week's BSU/Notre Dame dress up day. We raised \$158 for charity.

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:

Together We Rise



SAINT MARK'S
—CATHOLIC SCHOOL—

- 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

10/13- Monday: Monday morning prayer and 3rd decade of the Rosary @ 8am

10/15- Wednesday: Student Body Mass @ 8:30am hosted by Mrs. Dressler's 4th grade

10/15- Wednesday: Virtue of the Quarter ceremony immediately following Mass

10/15- Wednesday: First Communion Parent Meeting @ 6:30-7:30pm

10/19- Sunday: 6th grade Student Sponsored Mass @ 8:30am

Franciscan at Home



The Diocese of Boise is fortunate to have full access to the Franciscan University online education program, Franciscan at Home. Our faculty and staff regularly participate in courses as part of their continuing education and catechetical training, but did you know you have access as well?

There are a multitude of free, engaging classes that are applicable to every day life, spiritual growth, supporting your children in their faith and more.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register.

Monday Rosary

Every Monday morning
at 8am

Join us on the playground every Monday in October as we pray a decade of the Rosary as our morning prayer.

Parents are always welcome to join for Monday morning prayer and announcements on the school blacktop.

Parent Prayer Group

October 15th
8:10-8:25am
Resurrection Room

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

Student Spotlight



Hank, the therapy dog, comes into Mrs. Dressler classroom and reads with students.

Does your student having 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
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:

Banks P, Connor D, Noelle G, Hank W, Adaline W, Grant W, Harper C, Walter C, Austin C, Patrick N, Greta W, Sam Albers, Mary B, Amaya W, Graham L, Michael F, Maddie B, Kingston S, Jasper T, Grace G, Banks P

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 12

Pastors Appreciation Day

Monday, October 13

National School Lunch Week

5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Home & School Meeting

Wednesday, October 15

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Dressler's 4th grade

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

Thursday, October 16

Mrs. Rosania's Birthday

Friday, October 17

End of First Quarter - FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Spirit Day

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 19

8:30 a.m. Student Sponsored Mass hosted by 6th grade

12:30 p.m. Alternate First Communion Parent Meeting

Monday, October 20

School Bus Safety Week

Book Fair

Tuesday, October 21

Book Fair

Wednesday, October 22

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Ms. Eaton's 4th grade

Book Fair

5th grade Teaching Mass

Thursday, October 23

3:00-7:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences - Noon Dismissal

Book Fair

Friday, October 24

8:00 a.m.-Noon Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

Book Fair

Home & School



HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 2025
6:30 SOCIAL HOUR 7:00 MEETING**



**POTIONS AND TREATS WILL BE
PROVIDED**

**PRIZE GIVEAWAYS
BABYSITTING PROVIDED**





Mrs. Gordon kissed a pig at the Farmstead Community Night on Monday. Thank you to all the families who attended and helped us earn \$266 for the school.



This year's Dinner Auction " Buffalo, Boots and Blessings" takes place on Saturday, February 7, 2026. It will be held in Donoghue Hall (at the church). Money raised from Paddles Up will go towards a new playground.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

**It's
Book Fair
Time!**

St. Mark's Book Fair runs Monday, October 20 - Friday, October 24 (yes, during Parent/Teacher Conferences). Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, October 17, through the week to sell books, then tear down on Friday, October 24. Click here to sign up to help . A great way to get those Volunteer Hours!

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.

Library Helpers (Parent Volunteers) are needed during the following times:

Tuesdays @ 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays @ 11:15 am.–1:15 p.m. and 1:15–2:45 p.m.

Thursdays @ 9:00–11:15 a.m.

Contact Mrs. Rosania at brosonia@stmarksschoolboise.com.

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.



Lunch Room Volunteers

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (13)—Perez, Seabolt, Carroll, Anderson

Tuesday (14)—Antonoplos

Wednesday (15)—LaMott, McDonald, Aldecoa

Thursday (16)—Glasgow

Friday (17)—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)

News



Parent/
Teacher
Conference

It's Parent/Teacher Conference time. For parents of students in grades PK-5, you can sign up for your conference times through our **PTCFast link**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress.

[Note for Middle School Parents:](#)

Conferences will be held in an open forum in the gymnasium during conference hours. There is no need to sign up, and you will be able to meet with teachers at your convenience during the scheduled times. Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24.

Child care **WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE** on Thursday, October 23 during Parent/Teacher Conferences because the gym will be used for conferences.



The next LIVE SEW class will be held on Thursday, October 16 @ 6:30 p.m. in the 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 October 16 and sign up.

Book Fair
Dates and Times

Open for Business

<u>Monday, October 20</u>	<u>Tuesday, October 21</u>	<u>Wednesday, October 22</u>	<u>Thursday, October 23</u>	<u>Friday, October 24</u>
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	10:00 - 11:50 a.m.	9:15 - 11:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. during P/T Conferences
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	12:30 - 3:30 p.m.	3:00 - 7:00 p.m. during P/T Conferences	



Your opinion counts! Here's your chance to recognize your favorites for the "Best Of" in everything that makes Boise great. **Vote once a day now through 10/24/2025 05:00 PM.**

Remember to keep voting! Education-->Private School-->St Mark's Catholic School
<https://www.voteboisefavorites.com/>



We have heard from parents logging their Volunteer Hours in FamilyPortal that previous years hours are still showing. When you log this year's Volunteer Hours, make sure the date is within the 2025-2026 school year, so when the school office runs a report of Volunteer Hours, your current year hours will show and you will be credited correctly.

Since school started, if you have changed your home address, phone numbers or need to update your emergency contacts or transportation list, please go into your FamilyPortal under School>Web Forms>Family Demographic Form to update your contact information. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY SO WE CAN GET AHOLD OF YOU.**



We are in search of a Part-Time Middle School Spanish Teacher beginning 2nd semester (January).

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or Spanish
- Current Idaho teaching certificate (or the ability to obtain one) with appropriate endorsements (preferred)

How to Apply:

Please submit to Donna Gordon - dgordon@stmarksschoolboise.com:

- Resume
- Completed Diocesan Application

Art Website

featuring works of art from Mrs. Arentz 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>



Support the St. Mark's School 8th grade Legacy Project by purchasing a fresh wreath or garland!

Find a St. Mark's 8th grader to purchase
one from or stop by the school office!

**Purchase now
thru Oct. 23rd
Wreath arrives
Nov. 20th**

St. Mark's Catholic School

M. Mixed Wreath 20" \$39.75 Fresh Evergreens with cones & bow. Also available in sizes: 28" \$47.29 32" \$66.24 42" \$79.19 48" \$105.95 60" \$217.34 72" \$289.95	CC. Candy Cane \$47.65 Fresh Evergreens with cones & bow. Approx. 28" in length
	
CR. Cross \$47.65 Fresh Evergreens with cones & bow. Approx. 28" in length	G. Cedar Garland 10' \$38.87 Cedar adds a warm welcome to guests. 2 Bows Included. Also Available in sizes: 25' (3 Bows) \$71.55 (25' garland shown in photo) 75' (6 Bows) \$196.56
	

Hand tied bows will vary in patterns and color
Prices include Idaho Sales Tax

Ms. Hatfield, our 8th grade art teacher, is asking for calendars with pictures, from past years. Please bring your donations to the School Office.



Parker Portraits will be offering retakes in their studios on Friday, November 14th and Wednesday, November 19th both days from 9am to 4pm. This is for new students who weren't here for the original Picture Day in August or Retake Day in October or for students who need retakes from Retake Day.

A St. Mark's family is looking for a carpool in the area of State Street/Highway 16 (behind Eagle Christian Church). Please email ryanv.boise@gmail.com if you can help.

Are you looking for a chance to be a part of the St. Mark's community? Do you like playing basketball in a low stress environment? Do you want to give back to St. Mark's school? We have a great opportunity. Our next adult recreational "pick up" basketball game is open to anyone affiliated with St. Mark's school or the parish. For a \$5 drop in fee, you can come play "pick up" basketball, get some exercise and meet others in our



Catholic Charities of Idaho 2025 Christmas Card Contest

Who?

Any student currently enrolled in St. Mark's, St. Paul's, St. Joe's and Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary Schools (Grades K-8)

What?

Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI) will feature a Catholic School student's original artwork on the cover of our 2025 annual Christmas Card sent to CCI donors, supporters and partners.

When?

We will accept card entries until 12:00pm on Friday, November 14, 2025.

How to Create:

- Artwork must be an original creation of the student.
- Art may be done using colored pencils, crayons, ink, or markers.
- Artwork must be done on 5 x 7 card stock which will be provided by CCI and can be obtained from your school office.
- Please limit the words in the drawing. CCI will add a Christmas message to the interior of the card.
- Artwork should express the Christian meaning of Christmas.

How to Submit:

- Students may submit only one piece of artwork.
- Attach the entry/consent form with a paperclip to the artwork submission.
- Submit the artwork entry and consent form to your school office.
- Rules of Entry: Submissions will become the property of Catholic Charities of Idaho.

Judging and Selection of Winner: All entries will be judged by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit
- Creativity
- Message communication and theme
- Expression of the Christian meaning of Christmas.
- Adherence to the rules

Contest Prizes:

1st Place:

- Artwork featured on front cover of 2024 Catholic Charities of Idaho Christmas Card
- \$75 cash prize
- 20 award-winning Christmas cards featuring his/her artwork.
- Featured on CCI Website and posted on CCI social media pages.
- Featured on article in the Idaho Catholic Register

2nd Place:

- Artwork featured on back cover of 2024 CCI Christmas Card
- \$50 cash prize
- Featured on CCI website and posted on CCI social media pages.

3rd Place:

- Artwork featured on back cover of 2024 CCI Christmas Card
- \$25 cash prize
- Featured on CCI Website and posted on CCI social media pages.

Click on link for consent form - **Parent/Legal Guardian Written Consent to participate in the 2025 CCI Christmas Card Contest**

Congratulations to this week's Knights of the Week!



Emerson Lynch (Mrs. Lynch's Daughter) - Safe and Caring Place

Emerson has been absolutely essential to fostering a positive and welcoming community within the Band this year, as well as leading others during rehearsals and stepping in to assist while rarely needing to be asked. We are off to such a great start this year because of her student leadership.

RUN FOR GOLD!

FUN RUN FUNDRAISER FOR CAMP RANIBOW GOLD

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2025

START AT 09:00 AM | CHECK IN STARTS AT 8:15

MEET AT JULIA DAVIS CELEBRATION PAVILLION

TICKETS : FREE!
100% DONATION BASED

2 MILE GREENBELT LOOP!



Sign Up Here!



Can't Make It? Donate Here!



Mrs. Slattery's daughter has organized a **Fun Run** to support **Camp Rainbow Gold**.

We would love for you to join us at this family-friendly event on:

Sunday, October 19th @ 9:00am

Julia Davis Park, Boise Pavillion

Tickets are free!

Please sign up using this [Eventbrite Link](#).

100% of donations will go directly to Camp Rainbow Gold to help fund programs for patients with pediatric cancer.



Language Research Camp Day

The Idaho State University Child Language Lab is looking for children to participate in a study of storytelling skills in a 1-day camp setting.

WHO: English-speaking children ages 8 to 12, who receive speech-language therapy services for:

- Language Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Developmental Language Disorder
- Spoken and Written Language Disorder

If parents have concerns about their child's language skills, they may participate in our language screening process.



Contact: (208) 373-1853 or
langlab@isu.edu



About the study:

- 1-day camp experience includes language testing, storytelling activities, games & snacks
- Dates: October - 17th, 24th, 25th, 31st; November - 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 24th; December: 6th and 22nd
- 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Parents receive test results
- Where: ISU Speech & Language Clinic in Meridian, ID
- To be contacted by our team, scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)

Eligible participation will receive a \$75 in Amazon gift card!

Research is always voluntary!

TVCS Events/Sports



Click here for the TVCS athletic schedule.

Congratulations and well done. Way to make us all proud.

--

Kevan Grant

Go Spartans!

St. Mary's Catholic School - Principal

TVCS Athletic Director

Champions!

Congratulations

BK 7th & 8th

Lacrosse team

**on your
undefeated fall season!**



Spring season registration

coming in early November!



Lacrosse

[Preschool Happenings](#)



Autumn leaves are falling all around! Our preschoolers were delighted to be able to sweep and scoop up the leaves! "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers". - Anne of Green Gables



Church Connection

If you would like to receive the Parish Newsletter **text** BOISESTMARKSNEWS **to** 42828 to sign up **OR** **Click here** to sign up.

Feast of St. Nicholas

December 6, 2025



Join us for:
5pm-Mass
6pm-Dinner
7pm-Advent
concert

Advent Concert

St. Mark's
Catholic Church
7960 W.
Northview St.





CHRISTMAS MASSES

12/24-4pm

12/24-7pm

12/24-11pm

A.K.A. MIDNIGHT MASS

12/25-10am

*All four Masses fulfill the
Holy Day of Obligation

Notes from the Nurse

Pinky Promise
this October

OCTOBER
is Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month

Talk to your medical
provider today about
risks and screening.

Saint Alphonse
A Member of Trinity Health



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

ALL ABOUT ANXIETY

Anxiety is worries or fears that are frequent and overwhelming. The feelings don't have to be caused by something specific. People facing anxiety can also have physical symptoms like sweating, dizziness and difficulty sleeping.

QUICK INFORMATION:

- There are about 4.4 million children in the U.S. between the ages of 3-17 who have been diagnosed with anxiety.
- Anxiety can present itself in many ways. Children may feel stressed or panicked. They may have difficulty focusing or sleeping, and they may also feel physical effects like a stomachache or a headache.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Talk to your child about how they are feeling. Help your child develop ways to cope with their anxious feelings like deep breathing, exercising, and using positive self talk.
- Manage your own anxieties. Different life circumstances can leave us all feeling anxious. Our kids can pick up on this, so it is important to keep your conversations age-appropriate and reassuring.

WHAT TO SAY:

- "I am here for you."
- "Let's work through this together. How can I help you?"
- "I know this is hard."
- "You are safe. I am here."
- "What is your worry telling you?"

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:

- [Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents](#) by Reid Wilson and Lynn Lyons
- [What To Do When You Worry Too Much](#) by Dawn Huebner
- www.worrywisekids.org
- [Growing Up Brave](#) by Donna Pincus

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- "Stop worrying."
- "Get over it."
- "This isn't a big deal."
- "I don't understand what you're so worried about."
- "It's fine."

PICTURE BOOKS FOR KIDS:

- [Wemberly Worried](#) by Kevin Henkes
- [Wilma Jean: The Worry Machine](#) by Julia Cook
- [The Huge Bag Of Worries](#) by Virginia Ironside
- [Silly Billy](#) by Anthony Brown

©Counselor Chelsey

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.

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