



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

December 13, 2023

Dear Families:

Everyone has a favorite Christmas song. Maybe you like Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," or perhaps you like Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You." Some people prefer more traditional, spiritual music, while others prefer more secular songs. For me, it's difficult to choose one...I like whichever one I'm listening to at the moment, depending on the mood I'm in.

The other day, while I was driving, "Christmas All Over Again" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers came on the radio. Don't get me wrong. It's a fun song with a great message, but I couldn't help but focus on the word "again"—and not in a positive way. Sometimes, Christmas can creep up on us. There's so much to do, so many things to get ready, presents to buy, gifts to wrap, cards to write, meals to prepare, people to visit. At times, we can begin to feel like, "It's Christmas...*again*." Even one line from the song is, "I hope mama gets her shoppin' done."

Believe me, I'm no Grinch! I like Christmas; I just need some more time to do it all and to get it all ready. I recently heard a homily by Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Brooklyn Deacon Kevin McCormack, and it really hit home for me. In his homily, Deacon Mac says...

"Being jolly is a lot of work...I've got a lot to do, and I'm not even talking about work...There's a lot of pressure for adults this time of year...For the adults, these are the two fastest weeks of the year. Kids see something completely different than we do. These are the two slowest weeks. They want to dance. They want to sing. They want to see the grace of God that abounds...But me, I'm too busy. I look at the students of our schools, and say what do they know that I don't know...They know this...The grace abounds now. Now is God's time...The miracle of Christmas is to see the grace that abounds, to dance with it."

Speaking of dancing, what Deacon McCormack is saying reminds me of another song, "Christmas Through Your Eyes" by Gloria Estefan. *"I wanna see Christmas through your eyes I want everything to be the way it used to be. Back to being a child again, thinking the world was mine I wanna see Christmas, Christmas through your eyes."* In other words, the heart of Christmas and its true meaning are best seen and understood through the eyes of children—your children, our students!

So, for these next twelve days, don't worry so much about what needs to be done later on. See the grace of God now as our children do! See it in the meals you prepare, the gifts you wrap, the people you visit...the songs you dance to!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | smcaonthebay.org

Christmas Sale

for students!

Thursday, December 14

The sale is one day ONLY!



Students will be able to purchase gifts for family and friends.

The price of gifts will start at \$3.

If you would like your child to participate in the sale, please send in money in a clearly labeled envelope on Thursday, December 14.

For more information, contact Michael Davis (347) 547-1828.

Thank you!

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY



FAMILY CHRISTMAS RADIO BINGO

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AND
CHILDREN OF ANY AGE!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

6:30PM - 9PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

\$10 CHILDREN - \$15 ADULTS

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

NAME THAT TUNE,
BINGO AND A DANCE
PARTY ALL ROLLED
INTO ONE!



JOIN US FOR A
FESTIVE NIGHT OF
BINGO, DANCING,
PRIZES AND FUN.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4A28B7H9](https://tinyurl.com/4A28B7H9)



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Christmas Spirit Week 2023

Monday, December 18	Tuesday, December 19	Wednesday, December 20	Thursday, December 21	Friday, December 22
<p>Advent Dress Down Day Students are invited to wear purple or pink, the colors of the Advent Season!</p>	<p>Christmas Pajama Day Students may wear Christmas pajamas to school! (No slippers)</p>	<p>Red and Green Dress Down Day Students may wear red and green colors to school!</p>	<p>Christmas "Ugly Sweater" Day Students may wear "ugly" Christmas sweaters to school!</p>	<p>Christmas Mass Grades 1 through 8 will attend the 8:30am Mass. Students should wear their uniforms.</p>
<p>Christmas Buddy Reading Day Students from the upper grades visit our youngest learners to read holiday books and stories together.</p>	<p>Middle School Christmas Movie Day Grades 5 through 8 will gather in the cafeteria to watch the movie <u>Elf</u>. Snacks will be provided.</p>	<p>Grades 3 and 4 Christmas Movie Day Grades 3 and 4 will gather in the cafeteria to watch the movie <u>The Santa Clause</u>. Snacks will be provided.</p>	<p>Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 Christmas Movie Day Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 will gather in the cafeteria to watch the movie <u>The Polar Express</u>. Snacks will be provided.</p>	<p>Breakfast with Santa All grades will gather in the gym and cafeteria for a Christmas Breakfast! There may even be a special visit from Santa Claus!</p>
<p>Early Childhood Winter Extravaganza! 3K, Pre-K, and kindergarten will perform at 10am in the gym!</p>	<p>Christmas Show Grades 1 through 8 will perform at 6:30pm in the gym!</p>			

There are no costs or fees for Christmas Spirit Week. All events are free of charge!

WE'VE GOT AN EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU!

**Please join us as
we celebrate our...**



Grades 1 through 8 will be performing!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
at 6:15PM**

TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH.

SEATING IS ON FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

All tickets are purchased ONLINE ONLY at
<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/wTRcRJNU>



CHRISTMAS EVE

SAINT MARK PARISH FAMILY MASS PAGEANT

Looking for Actors to perform at
Christmas Eve Mass on December 24th
at 4:30PM (Ages 7 and up)



Here are the Rehearsal Dates:

- Sunday, December 17th 1pm-3pm
- Saturday, December 23rd 2pm-4pm
- Sunday, December 24th 2:30pm

Rehearsal will be in the Church



If you are interested in performing, please contact:

Mr. Michael Davis @ 347-574-1828

Mrs. Ange Davis @ 347-616-7618

Or Jessica Falco in school