



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

October 16, 2024

Dear Families:

Yesterday, actress Jane Darwell would have celebrated her 145th birthday. Now, you're probably asking yourself who is Jane Darwell. Good question! I wouldn't know Ms. Darwell either had she not appeared in one very popular movie...*Mary Poppins*.

Coaxed out of retirement by Walt Disney himself, Ms. Darwell portrayed the Bird Lady, the elderly woman who sits on the step of the cathedral feeding pigeons. Although her character is not even given a name, she is, perhaps, the most important person in the movie other than maybe Mary Poppins herself.

In the scene when the Banks children see the Bird Lady, the song "Feed the Birds" is played in the background. It was one of Walt Disney's favorite songs. In fact, all he had to do was say "play it," and his staff knew that meant to play "Feed the Birds."

In an interview, Richard Sherman recalled the day he and his brother wrote "Feed the Birds," and presented it to Disney. He said:

"We wrote the song and took it up to Walt's office and played it and sang it for him. He leaned back in his chair, looking out the window, and he said: 'That's it, isn't it? That's what this is all about. This is the metaphor for the whole film.'"

Without question, "Feed the Birds" is a metaphor, not just for one movie. It's a metaphor for every day of our lives. Listen to the lyrics...

*Come feed the little birds,
Show them you care
And you'll be glad if you do
The young ones are hungry
The nests are so bare
All it takes is tuppence from you*

In life, you will come across people less fortunate than you...the little birds. How can you show them you care? The song says it only takes tuppence a bag. Tuppence is only two cents, a trivial sum...a worthless amount. Look at what they're buying... a bag of breadcrumbs...an insignificant amount of food. The bird lady isn't selling breadcrumbs to make money. She's doing it to help others. There is no value, no dollar amount, that can be placed on generosity and kindness. In fact, Richard Sherman himself said, "Songs have been written about a myriad of subjects. 'Feed the Birds' is the first song written about the merits of giving charity."

Of course, this is not the first time you've heard this message. Jesus himself, had his own version of "Feed the Birds..." In the Sermon the Mount, Jesus said: *Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sew or reap; they gather nothing into barns; yet your heavenly father feeds them.* The two messages are certainly intertwined. Jesus says that God the Father provides for birds. But how? ***It's us.***

He relies on ***us*** to do his work here on Earth. He relies on you and me to feed the birds. Jesus, himself, said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto me." What he could be saying is, "Feed the birds."

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

Join us for a food filling fundraising event!



In Support of



**SAINT MARK
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

100 Years of Catholic Education
in Sheepshead Bay



Event Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Time: 3pm -10pm

Location: 2951 Avenue U, Brooklyn, NY 11229

718-719-2630

20% of sales donated to ST. Mark Catholic Academy

Not to be combined with IHOPPY HOUR, Kids Eat Free, Pan Coins, Discounts, Coupons, special offers or on-line orders.

DINE IN & TO GO ORDERS ONLY.

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DIGITAL FLYER AT
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YOUR ORDER TO
QUALIFY
DO NOT PRINT FLYER.



In rear

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

presents

Halloween Party 2024

JOIN US FOR SOME GHOULISH GAMES, FREAKY FUN, AND FRIGHTENING FOOD!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

6:30PM TO 9:30PM

ST. MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY GYM



Plenty of food, fun, and some frights, too!
Children should wear costumes!



\$22 FOR STUDENTS

\$17 FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

\$30 AT THE DOOR FOR ALL TICKETS

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOO!

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/GpDISNL5>

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY CASH TO THE SCHOOL!



A SAFE HALLOWEEN AT SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

October 9, 2024



Dear Families:

On **Thursday, October 31st**, students in **3K through grade two** will be allowed to wear costumes. Students in **grades three through eight** will have a black and orange dress down day.

For those students **wearing costumes**, please remember...

- No costume masks of any kind.
- Sneakers must be worn with all costumes.
- No costumes that restrict movement or vision or prevent sitting at desks.
- Costumes may not promote violence or have accessories or props that could be used as a weapon.
- No pretend "prop" weapons such as water pistols, knives, or swords.
- Costumes should not include items with sound effects, lights, or other components which would disrupt the classroom learning environment.

For those students **dressing down**, please remember...

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress - no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriiffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jeans



Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations

On **Thursday, October 31st**, classes will have the opportunity to have some Halloween fun. How each class celebrates is at the discretion of each teacher. Some teachers may elect to watch a Halloween movie, go on a virtual field trip, and/or do some Halloween arts and crafts.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation as we work together to provide a fun—and safe—Halloween for our students.



IT'S TIME FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT AGAIN!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

What is TRUNK-OR-TREAT?

Families drive into our schoolyard, decorate their cars for Halloween (sometimes creating elaborate scenes out of their trunks). Then kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would during a normal trick-or-treating outing. It is a fun and safe way for our children to trick-or-treat in our schoolyard!

WE NEED CANDY!

We would appreciate **CANDY DONATIONS** for TRUNK-OR-TREAT this year. If you are able, please send in sealed, unopened bags of fun-sized candy. We ask you to please be conscious of students with allergies, so **no candy with NUTS or PEANUT BUTTER of any kind! Also, please be mindful of candy that can be a potential choking hazard, so no "Jawbreakers" or any type of hard candies.**

Often, small bags of pretzels or cheese doodles are good!
Donations can be sent in until Thursday, October 24th.

CAN YOU BRING YOUR CAR?

Yes! But spots are limited, and you must email me (mwilson@smsonthebay.com) by October 25th. We can only fit a certain number of cars in the schoolyard, so parents are invited on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we get your email, we'll provide you with the specifics!

WE WILL PROVIDE THE CANDY THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY DONATED.

All you need is your car and creativity!



Come join us!

Oktoberfest



Sunday, October 20, 2024
(Following our 12:00 pm Mass)

Location: *St. Mark Academy School yard*
(Inclement weather relocated to school cafeteria)

Cost - Adults - \$20.00 pp
Children - \$10.00 each

To reserve your seat call -718-891-3100
Payment available at the door



Oktoberfest