



# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

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February 14, 2024

Dear Families:

Today is all about love! Not only is it Valentine's Day, but it's also Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

We all know that Valentine's Day—which is actually St. Valentine's Day—is holiday that we use to express our love for family, friends, and all of the special people in our lives. In the same respect, Lent is also about love, more specifically, Jesus' love for us. That's because Lent is preparing us for Easter, when Jesus died and rose from the dead to save us from sin.

The reason he did this is because, quite simply, he loves us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Since today is Valentine's Day many people will be buying their loved ones something special or going out for a nice dinner. However, Ash Wednesday starts the 40 days of Lent when we are really expected to give up something. We're also required to fast and abstain from meat. We do this to remember that Jesus so loved us that he gave his life for us, so if he can make that sacrifice for us, we can make those small sacrifices for him.

When you think about it, it's easy to buy someone a gift or give them a card on Valentine's Day. Other than the cost, there's no real sacrifice. On the other hand, we truly show our love and admiration for someone when we make sacrifices for them. Our parents show their love for their children by making sacrifices to send them to Saint Mark Catholic Academy. Our faculty and staff show their love for their students by sacrificing their time to help them both inside and outside the classroom.

It's nice to get cards, chocolates, and gifts on Valentine's Day, but Ash Wednesday reminds us that sacrifice is the truest and most sincere expression of love.

Sincerely,







Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal

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**Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.**

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

# March 2024 Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
				<b>Last Day Reregistration is \$200</b>	First Friday Mass 8:30am Parish Pasta Night Reregistration increases to \$250.	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Trimester Exams Grades 5-8	Trimester Exams Grades 5-8 <b>Pizza/Dress Down \$5</b>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Trimester Exams Grades 5-8	Trimester Exams Grades 5-8		Second Trimester Ends	Third Trimester Begins <b>Free Dress Green Day</b>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Trimester Exams Grades 5-8	St. Joseph's Day Dress Down Fundraiser (\$5) supporting the Joseph Lewinger '00 Scholarship for Future Educators at St. Joseph's University.			Report Cards Distributed Half Day for 3K and PreK: 7:30am to 12:30pm <b>NO SCHOOL for K-8: Faculty Professional Day</b>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> 	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> 	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> 
31	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> 	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> Easter Recess	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> Easter Recess	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> Easter Recess	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> Easter Recess	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED:</b> Easter Recess	<b>CLASSES RESUME</b> on April 8