



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

December 6, 2023

Dear Families:

As I mentioned in my letter last week, things are “busy, busy, busy” this time of year. The holidays are always a hectic time. We’re worried about decorating our homes, buying gifts for loved ones, and preparing for family dinners and holiday meals. Sometimes, it can be difficult to get in the Christmas spirit when we’re doing so much, and so much is going on around us!

That’s why, for the first time, we’re having a Christmas Spirit Week from December 18 through December 22. There are some fun dress down days and different activities planned, all with the hope of helping us slow down so we can appreciate the Christmas season together as a school community. Please take a look at the enclosed schedule to see what we have planned.

Speaking of taking a break and slowing down, some of our students are getting an early start to the weekend. Tomorrow is a professional day for our kindergarten and grades 1 to 8 faculty, and it is a half day for 3K and Pre-K. A professional day is not a day off for teachers. Sure, they don’t have to meet with their classes, so the day might be less demanding. Yes, we do provide them with breakfast and lunch; they even get to dress down, but that’s not what the day is all about! In actuality, a PD day is an opportunity for the teachers to become the students. It affords the faculty and staff with the opportunity to “brush up” on their pedagogical know-how and hone their craft.

Everyone’s day off comes on Friday, December 8. Although I mention it every year, it’s important to remember the significance of the day off on Friday. Schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn are closed because Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Diocese of Brooklyn—and she is also the Patroness of the United State of America under this title, too!

Since this feast day is in December, many people believe that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus, recognizing the time when the Angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of God. In actuality, Mary *herself* is the Immaculate Conception because she was born without Original Sin. Enjoy the day off on Friday. Use the time to take a break from the business of the season. Thank Mary for the break tomorrow, but more importantly, thank her for her “yes.”

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

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 red and green colors to school!</p>	<p>Christmas "Ugly Sweater" Day Students may wear "ugly" Christmas sweaters to school! (No slippers)</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 Grades 5 through 8 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 10am in the gym!</p>			

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

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)



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>



TOYS FOR TOTS DRESS DOWN DAYS!

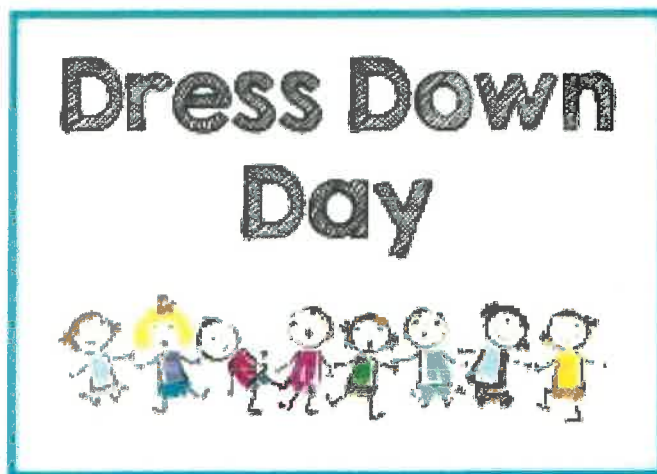
WE ARE COLLECTING TOYS FOR TOYS FOR TOTS.

EACH DAY A STUDENT BRINGS IN A NEW AND UNWRAPPED TOY, THEY MAY DRESS DOWN.

STUDENTS MAY PARTICIPATE

AS MANY TIMES AS THEY WOULD LIKE...

NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 12!



Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the Parent-Student Handbook:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3” above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, 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 jean

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



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY



Christmas Bow Sale



This Christmas, Saint Mark Catholic Academy will be holding a Christmas Bow Sale!

These bows will be hung on our fence outside the school on East 19th Street.

Along with being a festive decoration, these bows will also be a way for you to honor or memorialize a special family member or friend.

Each bow costs \$5.

If you are interested in purchasing a bow, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdfw3eje> or complete the form at bottom of the page.

The sale is ongoing, and bows will be hung as orders come in. Thank you!

Saint Mark Catholic Academy • Christmas Bow Sale

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Number of bows to purchase: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Bow #1 In honor of In memory of _____

Bow #2 In honor of In memory of _____

Bow #3 In honor of In memory of _____

If necessary, please list additional bows on the back of the form.

Christmas Sale

for students!

Thursday, December 14



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

The price of gifts will range from \$5 to \$15.

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

Thank you!

Journey to the Inn Performance

December 10th at 4pm at Saint Mark Church

Followed by our **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**

AFTER THE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY, SANTA WILL ARRIVE

WE WILL HAVE **HOT COCOA, DJ** AND SO MUCH MORE....



Please contact Michael Davis @ 347-574-1828 if you have any further questions.