



# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

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January 22, 2025

Dear Families:

It goes without saying that my weekly letters to you often sound like a homily that a priest would give at Mass. This week, my letter to you is more confession than it is sermon.

When I was in seventh grade, my dad spent many nights studying with me for an important math test; in fact, I think it may have even been a final exam. We went over questions, and he gave me example after example until he felt that I was well-prepared for the test.

Here's where the confession comes...I didn't do well on the test. When my dad asked me, "Did you get your test back yet?" I didn't tell the truth, and I told him no. The teacher was taking a long time grading them, I said, so it would be a while before we would find out how we did.

It's been 25 years, and my dad still doesn't know I didn't do well on that math test. (Well, I guess he does now!) I never had the heart to tell him. I felt like I had let him down. We worked so hard, and I didn't produce the desired result.

As you can see, this has stuck with me over the years. I'm reminded of that story because today our students received their progress reports. After looking them over, I can tell you that a vast majority of our students are doing just fine. They just need to "stay on track" until the final report card. There are others, however, who have a few things to work on. That's what today is about.

Progress reports are not official documents. They're a "snapshot" of how a student is doing at this moment in time. The trimester is twelve weeks long, and this is only week six. There is plenty of time for students, families, and teachers to collaborate and work toward continued improvement and eventual success.

Thanks to modern technology, if I took that test today, the grade would've been posted on FACTS, and I wouldn't have been able to hide it. (Yikes!) More importantly, though, I shouldn't have kept my grade a secret. Students...Talk to your parents. Talk to your teachers. Don't wait until report card time. Take action now. We're here to help! Don't wait 25 years.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal

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

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Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



**SAINT MARK  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**  
100 Years of Catholic Education  
in Sheephead Bay



### MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Catholic Schools Week Opening Mass 8:30am

#### BACK TO THE FUTURE DAY

Each class "sponsors" a decade in celebration of Saint Mark's 100th Anniversary. Classes will learn about the food, dress, customs, people, and historical events from that era.



### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

#### TIME CAPSULE



#### TIME CAPSULE DAY!

In honor and celebration of our 100th Anniversary, we will bury a time capsule on the grounds of the school. Each class will prepare writings, drawings, and other artifacts to the place in the time capsule, which will then be buried on the grounds of the school.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

#### SKY DOME PLANETARIUM

Students will enter the dome and be introduced to a "star filled" sky. Our navigator, with the use of a digital planetarium projector and a laser pointer, will guide students through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere exactly as they appear on the day of the presentation.



### THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

#### STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY!



Free Green/Yellow Dress Down  
Free snacks for all students!

Along with student sports activities throughout the day, we will have a presentation by Harlem Magic Masters. Two players educate, stimulate and motivate students while providing an empowering message to children of all ages. Using strong interpersonal communication skills, combined with dazzling basketball techniques.



**MEET THE AUTHOR:** 3K, PreK, Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 will have a special interactive session with author Thyra Heder.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY!

"Dress Like a Teacher"  
Dress Down Day



Faculty vs. Eighth Grade  
Volleyball Game

Magic Show for  
Grades K-3







# After School Art Program

OPEN TO GRADES 3,4 & 5

January 27	March 3
February 3	March 10
February 10	March 17
February 24	March 24

***\$160 FOR 8 SESSIONS***

EXPLORE TECHNIQUES IN PAINTING,  
SKETCHING, COLLAGE AND MORE.  
NO SUPPLIES NEEDED; JUST BRING  
YOUR CREATIVITY!

*See you there!*

MRS. KANE & MISS LAURA

January 27  
February 3  
February 10  
February 24  
March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24