



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

February 12, 2025

Dear Families:

Although there wasn't enough snow to close school, there was enough to coat the ground and foliage. Coming into school this morning, Flatbush Avenue looked like a scene out of a Bob Ross painting; it was so serene, with snow-covered trees and bushes against the blue-gray sky. If I wasn't in a rush and there was no heavy traffic behind me, I might've stopped the car to snap a few pictures with my phone.

While the idea of stopping along a busy Flatbush Avenue dashed quickly out of my mind, the thought reminded me of one of my favorite Robert Frost poems, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening."

*Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

The English teacher in me could write paragraphs about this poem and its many interpretations. There are some who read it and infer the references to cold and sleep are allusions to themes of death and dying. Others have a more lighthearted analysis and believe it's about Santa Claus on Christmas Eve!

For me, the poem represented how I felt this morning. Although I was not on horse-drawn sleigh, I just wanted to stop and look at the snow for a minute. The dangers of stopping on a busy road prevented me from doing so, but I also had to get to school. I didn't have the luxury, the extra time, to stop my car along the side of the road. How many of us do the same? We don't always have time to do what we want because we have "promises to keep" and "miles to go."

In just a few days, we will have a week off from school. Did you know that this week off originated in the 1970s as a conservation effort during an energy crisis? With no students in the building, schools could lower their thermostats, save fuel, and keep costs down. While there's no longer an energy crisis, I still like to look at the mid-winter recess as a conservation effort—but of our own energy. It affords us an opportunity to take a break and recharge, and if we choose, to stop on Flatbush Avenue on a snowy morning.

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

“CST” DISMISSAL FOR K-8

on Friday, February 14

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.
- **NO MORNING OR AFTERNOON BUS SERVICE.**

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 3K-A and 3K-B will dismiss normally at 2:30pm.
- Pre-K A, Pre-K B, and Pre-K C will dismiss normally at 2:40pm.
- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 1:50pm.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B will dismiss at 2pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will also dismiss at 2pm.

Saint Mark Church Youth Choir

Choir Rehearsal is this Thursday, February 13th in the Church after School Dismissal from 3:30pm until 5pm

Mr. Davis will bring all children over to church. If you are unable to pick up your child by 5pm, they will be brought over to after school NO Charge until 6pm.

The Youth Mass will be on February 23rd at 12pm



MARDI GRAS

HOSTED BY

St. Mark

St. Magaret Mary Parish

Saturday, March 1st, 2025

6:30 to 9:00

IN THE

**ST. MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY
GYMNASIUM - CAFETERIA**

Potluck Dinner

Please bring a Full or Half Tray
of your favorite Food or Desert

RSVP

The Rectory (718) 891-3100 or
Mike Davis (347) 574-1828

DONATION

Children 3-6 \$10 6-16 \$15.00

Adults \$20.00

Family and Friends Welcome



**DJ
Photo Booth**

**Games
Family Fun**