

SAIN T MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A guiding light for children today.

November 24, 2020

Dear Families:

Happy Thanksgiving!

Although so much in our lives is different and unusual, and negative news is all around us, there are still reasons to be thankful. Along with my family, friends, and daughter—who makes me smile every day—I remain ever-grateful that our school is open, thriving, and providing a consistent and meaningful education for our students.

This, of course, would not be possible without our dedicated teachers and staff who work hard to ensure that Saint Mark Catholic Academy continues to provide a quality education in the safest environment possible. Although sometimes it seemingly goes unnoticed, they make tremendous sacrifices every day. I am blessed and thankful to be part of a great school team! *Thank you!*

In addition to our faculty and staff, we cannot forget our students. They started this school year under very unorthodox circumstances. They have their temperatures taken and are required to wear a mask every day. Most notably, they are being asked to socially distance themselves from their friends and classmates in an environment that has always fostered togetherness, friendship, and love of neighbor. We are now almost a third of the way through the year, and they have done a tremendous job making these new procedures part of their every-day routines. *Thank you!*

Let's not forget our remote learners in the Saint Thomas Aquinas program; they have had to make some significant adjustments, too—we look forward to a time when we can welcome you all back home! *Thank you!*

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Saint Mark Catholic Academy, I must thank you—our parents and families—for your ongoing support and cooperation. In the same way that this year has been a challenge for our students and teachers, it has also been a trying time for our families, too. As a parent, I understand that it was not easy deciding between remote and in-person learning. Whatever your decision was, we are grateful that you've chosen Saint Mark Catholic Academy. *Thank you!*

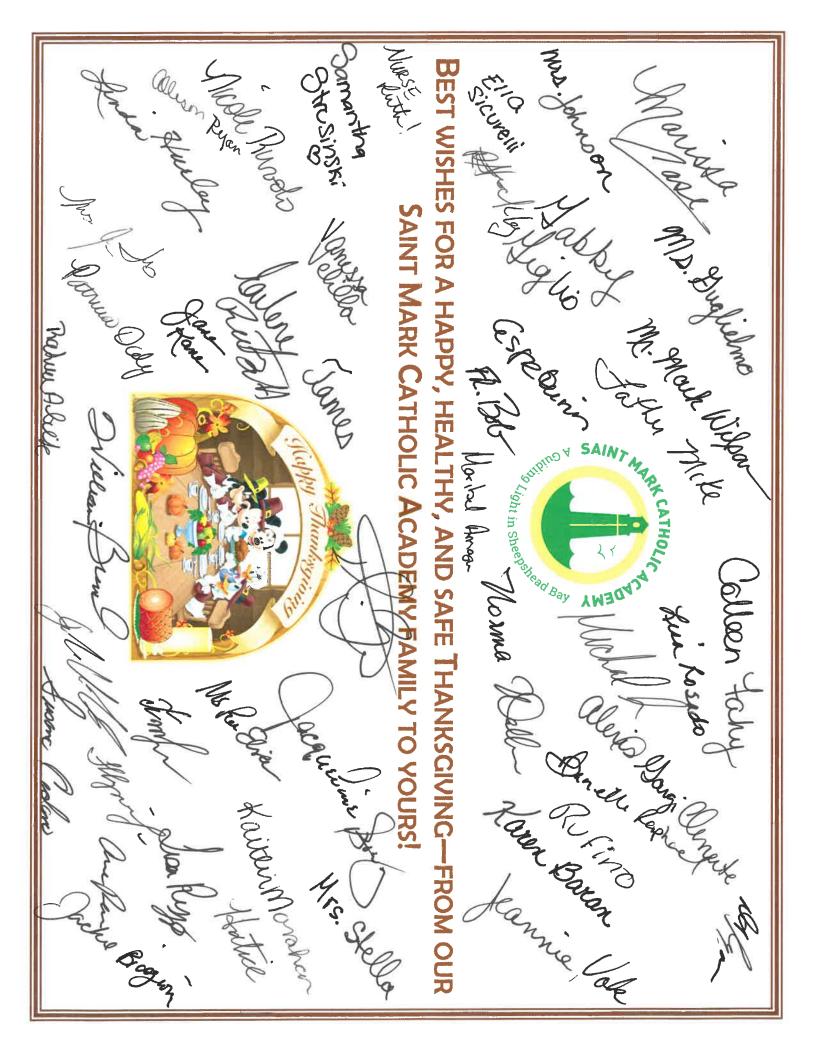
On behalf of the entire Saint Mark Catholic Academy community, best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving!

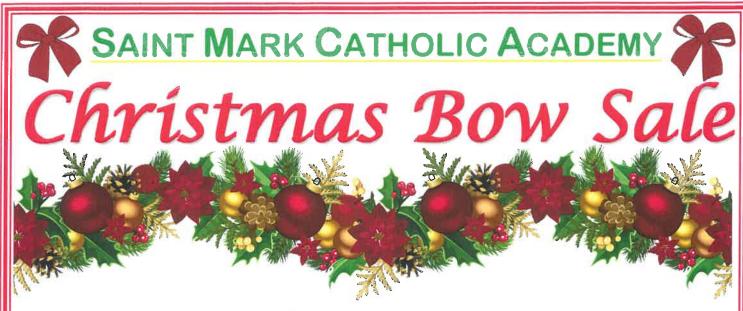
Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson

Mr. Mark Wilson

Principal





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 click on https://tinyurl.com/yy5zjtfy or complete the form at bottom of the page.

The sale is ongoing, but bows will begin to be hung after the Thanksgiving Recess. 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.	





Holiday Celebrations and Holiday Travel

As we enter fall and winter many of us are starting to make plans for the holidays. Whether you're visiting family members one state over or across the globe, travel makes up a huge part of the holiday season. There's always a risk of getting sick while traveling because of the inherent stress of traveling, the contact with frequently touched surfaces in public places, and the changes in climate and environment. But this year brings different considerations because of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the New York State Travel Advisory.

Things to consider as we enjoy this time with family:

NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory

The NYS COVID-19 travel advisory requires individuals who have traveled out of New York State to noncontiguous states for more than 24 hours to either quarantine for 14 days upon return to New York State or "Test to Exit" quarantine.

For travelers who were out-of-state for more than 24 hours:

- Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Brooklyn has expanded the International Travel Advisory to include **all** International Travel.

Full Information on the NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory can be found at: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory

CDC Recommendations for Holiday Celebrations and Travel

Full Information on the CDC Recommendations for Holiday Celebrations and Travel can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html

<u>Please Note</u>: As per the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) schools can implement safety and health protocols that go above the NYS DOHMH and NYC DOHMH required safety and health protocols.