



SAIN[†] MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

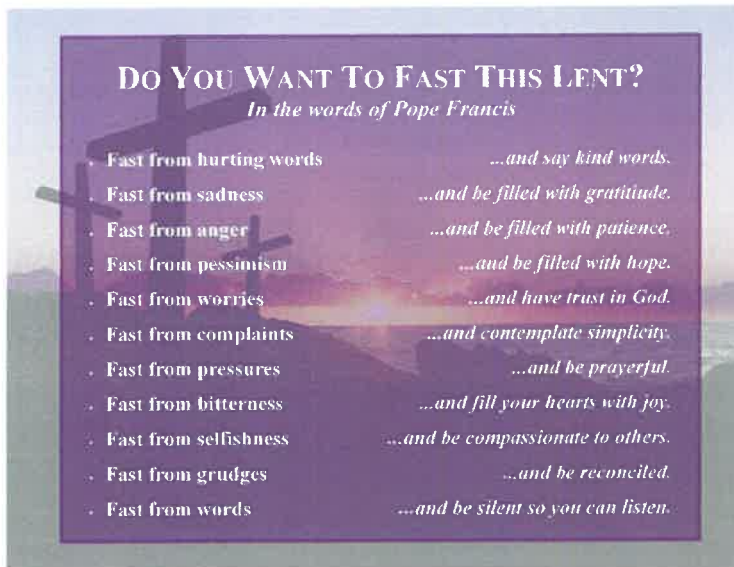
A guiding light for children today.

February 24, 2021

Dear Families:

I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing mid-winter recess. It's difficult to believe that this coming Monday is the first of March!

During the break, we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. For many, Lent is often a time when we "give up something." When asked by their teachers, many of our students will say they're giving up foods, like candy, chips, or other snacks. Some try to say they're giving up broccoli or Brussels sprouts—but the idea is to really abstain from something that is *difficult* to give up...to represent Jesus' sacrifice when he went into the desert to pray and fast for 40 days before his crucifixion.



While we all tend to look at Lent as a time for fasting from food, it is also a time for feasting. During this special time, we should feast not on food, but on generosity, compassion, kindness, patience—and other virtues that help to not only improve our lives, but also the lives of others. When you consider what junk food to give up, take some time think about what you are going to “feast on,” too!

Since September, I've been feasting on gratitude (and the occasional Oreo cookie). As I've been saying all along, I'm grateful for our school, which has been able to provide and meaningful and consistent education for our students since

September. I'm grateful for our families for their continued patience as we navigate this very unique academic year. I'm grateful for our teachers and staff, who sacrifice so much to ensure that our school continues to function as normally as possible, and most importantly, I'm grateful for our students, who are doing their very best and working to their greatest potential in the midst of so much uncertainty and apprehension.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

PS: This week, Ms. Rachel Maldonado joined SMCA's faculty! Ms. Maldonado is our new seventh-grade homeroom teacher and middle school ELA teacher. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Maldonado to the Saint Mark family!

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID!

Tuition assistance is available for students in kindergarten through grade 8 who meet certain eligibility requirements.

TO APPLY...

- Families must be enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year, including all paperwork and re/registration fee.
- Contact **Mr. William Bunch** in the Business Office.
 - (718) 332-9304, extension #2
 - wbunch@smsonthebay.com
 - Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 2:30pm
- Have 2020 W2 and 1040 Federal Tax Forms ready.
- There is a \$35 application fee.

DEADLINES...

- Application process begins **Tuesday, January 19th**.
- **March 22, 2021** for families who received an award last year.
- **April 19, 2021** for families applying for the first time.

FREE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE...

- If you are interested in applying, please contact Mr. Bunch. Funding is limited, so we **highly recommend** that families work with Mr. Bunch during this process to ensure the best possibility of receiving an award.









Futures in Education



Children's Scholarship Fund

March 2021

Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2	3	4	5 Early Dismissal Day Grades N & K-8 Pre-k for All Full Day	6
7	8	9	10 Trimester Exams Grades 5 – 8 	11 Trimester Exams Grades 5 – 8 	12 Trimester Exams Grades 5 – 8 	13
14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Free Dress Down Wear Green! 	18	19 St. Joseph Day \$5 Dress Down Fundraiser 	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Early Dismissal Day All Grades Report Cards 	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

EARLY DISMISSAL

on Friday, March 5th

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- This is a **FULL DAY** for Pre-K for All students.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 5

- **Nursery A and Nursery B** will dismiss at 12:15pm.
- **Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B** will dismiss at 12:30pm.
- **Grades 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4** will dismiss at 12:40pm.
- **Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8** will dismiss at 12:30pm.