



# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

## A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

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November 17, 2021

Dear Families:

One of my “must watch” shows on TV nowadays is *Blue Bloods*, and one of my favorite episodes is the season two Thanksgiving episode. The family patriarch, Henry Reagan, or Pop as he is affectionately known, describes Thanksgiving as his favorite holiday, saying, “*It’s always been my favorite holiday. No presents. No pressure. Just wonderful food and family. What’s not to love?*” I couldn’t agree more! For me, Thanksgiving is Christmas without the stress!

More recently, the tradition in my family is for my parents and my wife’s parents to come to my house for Thanksgiving. My mother-in-law is even nice enough to come over and do the cooking! I contribute by doing the shopping. I go to ShopRite and look for the biggest turkey they have! Even though there’s only seven of us, I enjoy the smell of turkey filling the house throughout the day—not to mention the leftovers during the days that follow!

Recently, I attended the funeral Mass for a friend’s mother. She had 18 children and 13 great-grandchildren, and being Italian, everyone would come to grandma’s house for big dinners during the holidays. During his homily, the priest celebrating the Mass compared the food at grandma’s table to the Eucharist at Mass, saying “The love is in the food.” In other words, preparing food is about more than just feeding and nourishing; it is an expression of love...and I think that’s why I enjoy Thanksgiving so much and want to buy a big turkey. The food is an expression of love.

During “pre-COVID” days, the entire school would gather in the gym for a Thanksgiving dinner the Wednesday before the break. Of the different events and celebrations we had to “pause” over the last year and half, I look forward to this one returning the most! From the mashed potatoes to the turkey to the dessert, each family would bring in something—usually homemade—to share with the school. Quite literally, everyone brought something to the table. As a teacher and later principal, I always enjoyed seeing all of our students gathered together as a school family to share a meal and give thanks. Again, “love is in the food.”

In that same episode of *Blue Bloods*, Pop has a heart attack a few days before Thanksgiving, so his family brings Thanksgiving dinner to him in the hospital. Fittingly, Pop says grace at the makeshift dinner table in the hospital: “*Heavenly Father, on this Thanksgiving Day, we give pause to give thanks to you for your many blessings... For this food which we are about to receive from your bounty. For your love... And for all those less fortunate in this season of giving, and for those who opened their door to them, and for the loving family at this table.*” For the Reagan family, the food truly was an expression of love.

So, next week, before we all get “wrapped up” in preparing for Christmas, let’s take the time to share Thanksgiving dinner with those we love. After all, the love is in the food—and regardless of the size of the turkey—there’s always some left over!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal

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

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | [smcaonthebay.org](http://smcaonthebay.org)

# **EARLY DISMISSAL**

## **on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- This is a **FULL DAY** for 3K and Pre-K for All students.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

### **DISMISSAL TIMES FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 11:50am.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4 will dismiss at 12pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will also dismiss at 12pm.

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**School is CLOSED on Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.**  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



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 19<sup>th</sup> 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/59v6bmsn> 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.

# Disney Gift Card Raffle

3 RAFFLE TICKETS FOR \$5!



1st Place: \$100 Disney Gift Card

2nd Place: \$50 Disney Gift Card

3rd Place: \$25 Disney Gift Card



**THAT'S THREE CHANCES TO WIN!**

Raffle Tickets purchased ONLINE ONLY at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4dda38p8n>



Deadline to purchase raffles is Tuesday, November 16th.

Drawing held on Thursday, November 18th—

Mickey Mouse's Birthday!

# Saint Mark's Decorating Party

**November 27<sup>th</sup> From: 9:30am to 1pm**

Gathering will be in the School Cafeteria at 9:30am

*All Are Welcome*

**Come and Join Us for a Time of Fun & Food**

**"It is Time to get into the Christmas Holiday Spirit"**

