



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

December 15, 2021

Dear Families:

We went from counting the weeks to now counting the days until Christmas. The closer we get to Christmas, the more holiday movies we see on TV. For example, I must've watched *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2* at least three or four times already. I don't really mind, either. For one, I like the movies, and they help get me in the Christmas spirit. Secondly, my daughter is just getting old enough to enjoy the movies herself. Sure, both *Home Alone* movies are filled with an inordinate amount of violence, and maybe she shouldn't be watching them just yet. But, along with laughing at Harry slipping on ice or Marv getting conked with a brick, I hope my daughter is also seeing the valuable message of the films—family and forgiveness.

When the movies begin, Kevin wishes to live his life alone. He's tired of being punished by his parents and tormented by his siblings, but by the end of each film, he misses them dearly and eagerly awaits their return. In fact, at the end of *Home Alone 2*, Kevin asks for just one thing for Christmas:

I don't want any presents. Instead, I want to take back every mean thing I ever said to my family. Even if they don't take back the things they said to me. I don't care. I love all of them... including Buzz. I know it isn't possible to see them all. Could I just see my mother? I'll never want another thing as long as I live if I can just see my mother. I know I won't see her tonight, but promise me I can see her again. Sometime. Any time. Even if it's just once and only for a couple of minutes. I just need to tell her I'm sorry.

To me, Kevin's Christmas wish sounds very much like he's speaking to God. In fact, it sounds very much like a prayer and...perhaps even a confession. This coming Monday is Reconciliation Monday, a time for Catholics in the Diocese of Brooklyn to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we reach the end of the calendar year, how many of us recall the times when we've hurt others or acted in a way that harmed our relationship with God. As we approach Christmas, there is perhaps no better time to atone for our sins and restore our relationships with family members and friends we may have hurt.

Sure, Kevin hurts Harry and Marv continuously throughout both *Home Alone* films, but the hurt he is most sorry for is the emotional pain he causes his family. At the end of *Home Alone*, Old Man Marley reunites with his granddaughter at the same time Kevin's family returns home. They both get an opportunity to be with family—and neither one has to spend Christmas home alone.

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

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

DRESS DOWN DAY

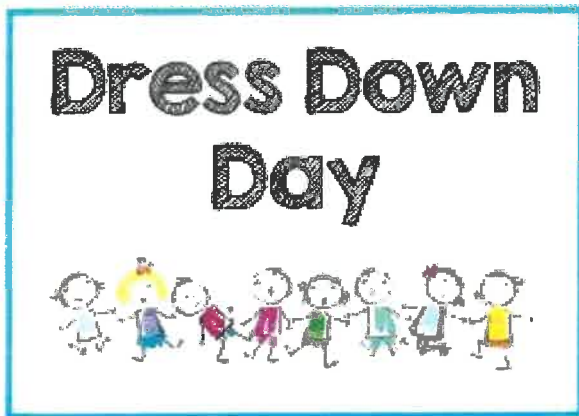
NEW
DATE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

NEW
DATE

NO COST! IT'S FREE!

WEAR YOUR "BEST" UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER TO GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!









Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the Parent-Student Handbook:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jeans

Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations.

January 2022

Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 School Closed	28 School Closed	29 School Closed	30 School Closed	31 New Year's Day (observed) School Closed	1 New Year's Day 
2	3 Classes Resume	4	5	6	7 Early Dismissal Grades K – 8 3k & Pre-K for All Full Day	8
9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day 	10	11	12	13 Pizza/Dress Down Day 	14 School Closed Professional Day	15
16 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	17 School Closed  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19 National Popcorn Day 	20	21	22
23	24 National Compliment Day  Feel Good!	25	26	27	28	29
30 Catholic Schools Week Begins... Details to follow!!	31	1	2	3	4	5